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Pictou.

Cape Breton. *

Inverness

New Series Vol. 9 No. 13

January 9th. 1907

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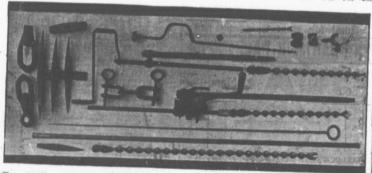
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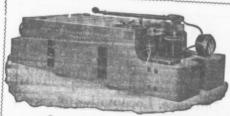


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Vol. 9, No. 13. Stellarton, N. S.,

January 9 1907.

New Series

COAL TRADE, 1906

The coal trade of the province, for the past year, shows gratifying if not wonderful expansion. The increase in shipments over 1905 is close on half a million tons. A larger increase may, in some quarters have been anticipated, but towards the close of the year, in fact during the last quarter, a number of circumstances combined, fires, misunderstandings, and a strike, to dash the hopes of those who had looked for a record increase. And yet, there is no great occasion for Of the year 1906 it shall be said that in it coal shipments passed the five million mark. It took the surprisingly—as we look at things now—long period of nigh a century for the coal trade of the province to reach shipments of amillion tons a year. In other words it took the shipments of 1791 ninety years before they had multiplied to a million tons. In 1881 the shipments reached these figures. It took fifteen years for the million to become two millions. These latter figures were reached in 1896. Five years, only, after, the three millions mark was reached and then, swiftly, in two years, in 1903, the four millions; and, now, three years later, we witness the passing of the five millions yearly mark. Indeed it may be said that the trade really began to show signs of commendable activity only eight years ago. In seven years the increase in shipments have been some 215 per cent. If the increases be in like proportions during the next seven years, then 1912 should witness the passing of the ten million mark.

Up till say 1900 the St. Lawrence was Nova Scotia's best market for coal. Indeed it was then held that without that market there was no hope for the trade. Since 1900 the home market has been expanding rapidly until at the present time it leads the Montreal market by two or three hundred thousand tons. Nova Scotia furnishes now her own biggest coal market. The home consumption to-day equals the total production of the mines as recently as eleven years ago. This is remarkable and is due to the rapid expansion and establishment of industries. With the establishment of additional blast furnaces in the province we may hopefully look for a continuation of expansion in home consumption.

Increases are to the credit of Cape Breton, Inverness, and Pictou County, while Cumberland has fallen behind.

In Cape Breton, while the Dom. Coal Co. shows the largest increase in tons, the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co'y. shows the largest per centage of increase. In the case of this company every month

save two showed an increase over the corre ponding month of the preceeding year. respect the company holds a unique position. The increase in shipments of the Dom. Coal Co. would, of course, have been more substantial had it not been for the fires at the Reserve and Hub, and the unfortunate dispute between it and the Dom. Iron & Steel Co. This dispute is responsible for the loss of a hundred thousand tons in ship-The Gowrie & Blockhouse a little better than held its own. The other two smaller collieries did no more than mark time,

In Pictou County the surprise is the great increase in shipments of the Intercolonial Coal Co. This increase is over 70,000 tons, equal to thirty-five per cent. increase over the shipments of 1905. In the closing months of the year the Acadia began to show improvement in shipments. Marsh mine about held its own. A new company started on a small scale but the sales which are principally for domestic purposes are small.

There is considerable improvement in Inver ness County. The Inverness Coal & Ry. Co. made substantial advancement in sales, owing chiefly to the company having secured a large slice of the I. C. R. contract. The Mabou & Gulf Coal Co. made a fair start last year but abandoned operations for the season early as the colliery has no connection with the Inverness Railway. The Port Hood Company did only a small business by water in the Autumn and fall months.

It is regrettable that Cumberland should be the one county to show a decrease. The outburst of damp in one of the slopes followed by the boys strike, is mainly responsible for the falling off, for Springhill ships by far the largest proportion of the shipments from the county. more small mines in Cumberland than in any other county in the province, and, with the exception of those of the Canada Coals & Ry. Co'y, the directors of these have a peculiar form of religious belief. They think it sinful to make known to each other or to the public the extent of their operations. Indeed some of them have hesitation in informing the government at the proper periods with details of shipments. Owing to this we are forced to make approximate of their sales,

During the year many of the collieries were sorely inconvenienced from the scarcity of labor, At perhaps a majority of the collieries there was a sufficiency of miners, but of loaders there was an inconveniently insufficient supply.

Wages were fair, the operators say high. One thing is certain. If a miner cannot live well and save money these days, the opportunity may never come to him.

As to profits. At the best they were small. Fabulous as is, in the opinion of some, the price of coal, the fact remains that some of the operators not only did not make profits, but actually lost money. Coal, it is said, and it is true, is high in price, yet nevertheless there is not to-day the should not be so; the fact remains that it is so. I. C. R. Domestic prices were stationary.

C. R. Domestic prices were fair if not rosy. There Prospects for 1907 are fair if not rosy. What is should be increases all along the line. called the natural increase should give a gain of say 520,000tons, but we look for a little more than that, say 625,000 tons, distributed among the companies and counties as follows :- Cape Breton Co. Dom Coal Coy. 275.000; N. S. S. & Coal Co., 50,000; other collieries 25,000; a total for C. B. of 350,000 tons. Inverness County, Inverness Ry. & Coal Co. 60,000; Port Hood & Mabou 40,000, total 100-000 tons. Pietou County, Acadia Coal Co., 75,000, Intercolonal Coal Co. 20,000, other collieries 5,000, total 100,000 tons. Cumberland County, Cumb. Ry. and Coal Co. 50,000, other collieries 25,000, total 75,000, or a total for all the counties of 625,000

drawing attention to its allegation that the Coal Com- other and the smaller companies cannot lower the prices panies in Nova Scotia are in a big combine, with the and make profit, or that the Dominion coal is in de-object, of course, of keeping up prices. I have given mand even at a higher rate. If the Dominion Coal Co. the names of fifteen roal companies and could have git is the head of the octopus and uses the other companies ven the names of three or four more. I can put a cross as tentacles to draw the best of the spoil to its maw, why against the names of at least a dozen concerns that, in- does it not make short work of it? stead of being in a combine, are keen if not jealous ricompanies in its combine. Why do not the twelve of Co. the Dominion Coal Co. is perhaps the best able to her concerns take advantage of the alleged high prices lower a little, the price. Suppose it did so, the conseq-

the hand on the controller of account of the comthe poney of the one companies of the and let it.

The poney of the one companies of the price of coal over prenot to gobble all and everything, that is, so far as the
vious years. Are not rents high? Is there not an inlocal trade is concerned. crease in the price of almost every commodity in general use? That the price of coal is retarding the prosper-some of the papers, as speaking for the workingmen, he of industries. What I would seek to maintain is that trade boom, full as compared with other years, these the demand for industries in times of general prosperity is not retarded by the price of fuel. When coal has been lowered in price, industries have been inactive and waning, and that can readily be accounted for.

In the eyes of the Herald the Dominion Coal Com-

ed cost of coal. Did your contemporary exercise a little intelligence and bestow a trifle of attention to the situation he might be saved the necessity-shall I say the pleasure or pain-of so fierce invective.

The subject of prices, to local consumers, has been so freely discussed in the Press, the Dominion Coal Co. People may try to show that it cannot be, and trade. The total sales of Dominion coal last year were, Prices were easier during the year, to at least the 175,000 tons found their way their way to St. Lawrence ports, 700,000 tons went to the United States, 700,000 tons went to the Steel plant at Sydney, and 375,000 tons went to New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and P. E. Island and other countries. This gives a total of sales, outside the Province, of 2,950,000 tons, which deducted from the total of all the sales, leaves 190,000 tons only for distribution in the Province. Let me now attempt to ascertain what part that limited quantity can possibly play in fixing prices to local consumers. play in fixing prices to local consumers. I place the consumption of coal in the province for 1906 at 1,800,-000 tons. Of this quantity the plants at Sydney and Sydney Mines took possibly 950,000 tons, leaving a balance of 850,600 tons to be accounted for. ion Coal Co's proportion of this as I have shown is 190,-000 tons, leaving 660,000 tons as the portion of the ottarround, for a rotal for all the counties of 520,000 her companies. Can a reasonably be explained how a tons. Of course these figures are based on the company doing less than a fourth of the local trade, is assumption that there will be no serious in the arbiter of the price that shall be charged by those her companies. Can it reasonably be explained how a terruptions to trade through accidents or strikes. doing the large bulk of the business.

All of the companies are eager to increase their local trade; if the Dominion Coal Co. holds up prices why do Mr. R. Drummond, in the Morning Chroniele, says: the 190,000 tons presently the share of the big company? not these others step in and by lowering prices capture "Your contemporary, the Herald, is most assiduous in There can be only one of two answers, either that the

vals to each other The Herald, I believe, counts five it. With the exception of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Does the Herald realize where its reasoning will land of the combinesters to push sales? Is the reason that uence would be that the lesser fry would be forced out they cannot lower prices and live? If so then the pro- of business, and then, indeed, might there be a monopthey cannot never prices and live:

It so then one proor of suffering from the ill-doing of any combine. oly, for the D. C. Co. would have the entire business to There is no reason whatever for the onset that is be- itself, and could dictate prices. It must, therefore, be ing made on the coal companies on account of the com-

ity of the country is belied by the fact that the Provin- would be forced to the conclusion that prosperous as ce is enjoying rare prosperity. Those who have not are the times there is still something radically wrong in to its employing rare prosperity. These who have not are the times in the subject may think that cheap coal is an essexisting conditions. It is curious and worthy of note, sential of prosperity. History proves to the contrary, that the loudest tones of discontent come from that por-The iron industry in Britain made biggest bounds when tion of our Province that is the most favored, and the coal was at its highest figures I do not say that cheap most abundantly prosperous. If the workers in any surely are the workers of Cape Breton. Going back twenty years I find that in 1885 five of the collieries presently in operation worked during that year an average of 145 days. These same collieries in 1905 averaged 267 days. There is an increase also, though to a pany is the sinner above all others. It is assumed to be less extent, in the number of days worked on the mainthe head and front of the offending coal combine (?) and land. A miner's average in Cape Breton for 1885 can is the one company mainly responsible for the increas- be placed at not over \$1,75, and for 1905 at not less

than \$2,50 per day. In other words the average Cape time destroying over four times as much of those Breton miner can earn to day \$410, (or two and a half deposits as they recover for market. too highly paid now, I am only endeavouring to show that while there are, from some quarters, expressions of discontent, there is less cause to-day than at any prior but that we should make a better use of them.

maturely he grows old and he becomes enfeebled. Rank clear. healthiest of our population. The other day I met a miner nearing the alloted span coming home from his work in the mine. I asked him, 'How are things going?' The reply was 'Oh, pretty well," The next question put was, 'How are you doing?' and here is the reer of a century or more ago.

I have before me a list containing names and ages of workers at a colliery emyloving, say, 300 men. over sixty years of age, It is retorted 'That is an antiquated colliery? May be, yet it is a colliery that can send up a large amount of coal at as low a cost, as any of the big modern mines. In asking for fair play for The strenuous nature of their employment, and the risks they assume from fires, falls and flooding, are of themselves pleas sufficiently strong to command tor them a full measure of justice, in the matter of wages, and treatment generally.

Besides the causes already mentioned, there is yet expected, and that is the shortage of cars. Some of the causes may have been preventable, this surely was. It will scarcely be a sufficient reply to say that it is now impossible to secure cars from the builders. Six years or more ago, the late Mr. Wade, M. P., publicly stated that, in his cpinion, the output of our mines in ten years wou'd be ten million tons. Others besides him gave expression to similar views Did the railway department take no stock in the predictions, or did they not calculate to handle any of the increased output. Then was the time, surely, to begin preparations. industry that expends yearly, in wages, six to eight million dollars ought to have its interests well attended to. Scarcity of cars has been a complaint for years, and from all present appearances there is to be no speedy relief.

THE HERALD ON MINE MANAGEMENT,

"It is also being recognized that though the coal industry in Nova Scotia is a very old one, yet it is doubtful whether the present public management of the Provincial coal fields is wise or foolis considered doubtful whether these companies are conducting mining operations in a proper coal mines picked out the most prolitable bits; it

times) over what it was possible for him to do 20 years matter engaging some public thought and should I am neither saying he was too low paid then, or call for public investigation. In short there is a public demand not only that we should make more use of the natural resources of the Province,

The foregoing paragraph is from an editorial Let me here correct another misrepresentation. We in the Halifax Herald, under the title 'Past and have been told that the severity of the conditions under Present'. Just what is meant by the 'public man-which a miner works, soon tells on him and that pre-agement of the Provincial coal fields' is not made Were it not for the context one might nonsense. Some of our oldest miners are among the think reference was made to the present system of leasing the lands on royalty. If so a better word than 'management' could be employed. The statute defines under what conditions leases may be granted; the mines department can only follow these instructions. Are we to infer that the ply. 'Nicely, never did better, this is the best year for leases are granted in some cases contrary to stat-me since the old times," The old times meanta quart- ute, or that royalty is not regularly collected in each case. The statute also provides for an examination of the workings by government inspec-It tors. Perhaps the Herald means that this work will no doubt be a surprise to Chronicle readers to be is not being properly carried out. The context informed that of the total, about 10 per cent., or to be might lead one to believe that this was the intendaccurate nine and a half per cent of the total men are ed inference, for the Herald hints at glaring incapacity or gross ignorance, in the management of the mines. If it be true that the managers of the mines are incompetent, and are besides great wastrels, taking from the areas on y one ton for our sturdy miners, it is surely unnecessary to frame every four they destroy, then certainly there is such pleas as that their work soon makes them feeble something radically wrong with the 'public mans agement with the governments method and man-ner of inspection. Whether of recent years or at this time, there has been, or is, modern scientisc, or to use a readily intelligible word, effective public management', it is not the Record's intention at this time to discuss. Probably a vinanother reason for the lesser quantity of coal sold than dication of government 'inspection', or a defence, may, more fittingly, come from papers like the Morning Chronicle, Sydney Record, Eastern Chronicle and Amherst News, which have sanction, say, to speak for, and in behalf of the local govornment. The Records part at present is to endeavour to defend the management of our coal mines against the attacks of unthinking, uninformed disparagers. In doing so there must be a defence in a way of government inspection, for if the methods of the managers are modern and economical, then government inspection, if no praise is due it, cannot come in for blame,

The hint that our mine managers are merely picking 'out such bits of the coal deposits as appear most profitable' shows a degree of animosity or a depth of ignorance scarcely pardonable. A coal mine is not like a garden where one may go to a bush and pick off the best bloom and then to another bush and do a similar thing. In a coal mine the operators cannot jump from one part of it to another and take a bit here and a bit there according to fancy. That would neither be of it to another and the control of the according to fancy. That would nectoo the control of the smallest that the smallest control of the smallest is to get the most coal possible out of the smallest territory, to confine operations to the most limitish. They are leased to private companies for ed space consistent with economy and fair out-terms of years—some of them very long; but it puts. The Record does not assert that there never was a time when the management of our are conducting mining operations in a proper scientific and publicly provident manner, or are is however prepared to assert that such is not the merely picking out such bits of the coal deposits practice to-day. It is possible that prior to the as appear most profitable, and are at the same year 1882, under, be it noted, conservative local

government 'management', the managers jumped from one point on an area to some other point rights for an equivalent. The talk about the people government management, is not permitted to-day. The Intercolonial Coal Co. has recently taken eighty thousand tons of coal out of a section of the mine abandoned a quarter of a century ago. The output of the Acadia Coal Co. is greatly curtailed because it cannot work a large area of coal vent combination. opened out-and which would be profitable, owing to the fact that if it pushed operations in the thicker underlying seam, the coal in the overly- person. ing and thinner seam might be lost to the coun-In Springhill the large profits made in the earlier days due largely to indiscriminate robbing of pillars and such like, were made at the expense od of meeting the agitation for reciprocity? of the Dom. Coal Co. to-day is to confine operations in the several mines to the smallest space Mr. Dick had shown that so far as Nova Scotia was possible. This means that the coal in one section concerned, the agitation was confined to a solitary in-The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal co. are to-day working a pit which was abandoned a score or two of years ago as unprofitable, or not able to be as profitably worked as a new mine. spite of these facts we are asked to believe that And yet in ganda the mine managers hop about hither and thither and yonder selecting the spots from which to pick the biggest and most valuable plums. ment that four times as much coal is lost, wasted their names with the amounts? or destroyed as comes out of the mine is a gigantic untruth. If it were stated that a quantity equal to one-fourth of the quantity taken out was left in the mine in the shape of pillars to support the roof there might be justification for the statement, but even that fourth left is expected to be won, in great part, before the mine is totally ab-

STILL AFTER INFORMATION.

The irrepressible W. C. Milner in last Friday's Herald propounds a number of que tions and demands answe s under penalities. Had he not threatened, no repli s of course, would be forth coming. Mr. Milner threatened because he thought that threats would bar any reply. This time he is mistaken. The season of good will is of so recent date that we could not if we would be discourteous. Mr. Milner asks:

Ques. Has Mr. Drummond a mandate from the D. C. C., or is he acting from philanthropic motives? Ans. Neither.

Ques, If the D. C. Co. sells coal to the G. T. R. at \$2.75, and to Montreal dealers at \$3.50, what is the difference in profit to the Coal Co. Ans. Twenty cents.

Ques. Is the difference in price between G. T. R. and I. C. R. coal justifiable?

Ans. Certainly, all the circumstances considered. Ques, Has he heard that the D. C. Co. sells its coal at the pit mouth at Glace Bay at \$3 00 per ton of 2000 lbs. etc? Ans

No, and if Mr. M. has been told so his leg has been pulled.

Ques. Does high wages necessitate high priced coal? Ans. Assuredly.

Ques. Why do Aliers get cheaper coal than natives? On account of quantity and quality.

Ques. Who own the coal areas?

owning the coal is pure rot; as well say that the people own all the timber on the lands leased to lumbermen. Ques Does Mr. D. think still, that duty on or off,

we can hold the Quebec market? Ans. The question was answered in last issoe.

Ques. Has Mr. D. ever heard of a combine to pre-

Ans, Yes, from Mr, Milner, the Suburban, and those who have been taken in by them, but from no sane

Has he any personal knowledge of it? Ques. Ans. No.

Has he had any hints as to the proper meth-

None whatever, either from the operators nor

Will he swear there is no combine? Ques.

Ans. No more than he would swear that Mr. Milner is not a member of a purely philanthrophic propo-

Ques. How much of the 13 1-2 millions of watered stock of the D. C. Co. was distributed in N. S., and especially how much was allotted to the politicans of Nova Scotia, their sisters, their couslns or their aunts,

Ans. Under certain conditions and, or, emanating from certain quarters, Mr. Drummond might consider this an inexpressably mean and cowardly question, Mr. Milner, however, being credited with being guileless as a babe, the reply is, that Mr. D. never handled, touched or even saw a bond, a preferred or common stock certificate of the D. C. Co. right, or on margin, Never sold a single bond or share of either; and, further that if 13 1-2 millons of common stock were distributed in Nova Scotia, and some of that among pol ticians, he cannot be in that class as he never benefitted by a single farthing-and he knows of no politican who did-by the hinted at distribution.

In an article published in a special number of the Halifax Hera'd in August, 1901, Mr. Drummond, editor of the Mining Record, said of Inverness County and its

"There is now a fourth coal producing county-Inverness, the gem county of the Province. Her trade is yet in its infancy but is bound rapidly to expand, and Inverness ere long may prove a tormidable rixal to Cape Breton County. For her area, what other part of the Dominion is so rich, not only in coal, but in many minerals, as yet unearthed. Keep your eye on Inverness. Were there space, in fancy's flight could be pictured hustling pits at Broad Coue (now Inverness town), Port Hood, Mabou, River Inhabitants and Chimney Corner, and busy ports at Port Hastings, Cheticamp, and Cari-

And how well his predictions have come true and proved no "fancy's flight." Broad Cove,—so called at that time, -with which this article has to deal, is now not a villiage, but the young and rising incorporated Town of Inverness, with a population of some 2,500, which number is rapidly increasing, -(R, C. H. in Free

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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R. DRUMMOND, PUBLISHER.

STELLARTON. N. S.

January 9 1907

- Rubs by Rambler.

My restless, for is he not like a boy ubiquitous, and genial friend, B. F. is no sooner announced as a member of the N. S. executive council than the press is cutting out work for him, and some of it is heavy work too. Heavy weight as he is, acute and capable as he is, I am just a wee bit afraid he will be unable to rise to the occasion. have been a year or two in this old world and yet I have never come across a man who was able to accomplish an impossible task. And that advice to the News and the other papers would is the sort of work expected of him, work that no be, to take a rest, build their systems up a bit, so other man can do. The Truro Daily News which is that they may be prepared to stand the shock, one of a quartette whose programme consists of should any announcement of increase in the price one chorus only, "Oh, why is coal so dear," builds much on Mr. Pearson, for it says :-

"We believe that Mr. Pearson in his practical manner of looking upon great questions will help substantial, in the matter of coal prices to how the News and other papers in this province in their broad and pertinent inquiry why we, in coal producing Nova Scotia are paying more for coal The post office, the carriage of mails, is I pre-than consumers a thousand miles distant pay for sume one of the public utilities. It ranks among the same article. We expect valuable assistance the first, and governments, in all civilized countfrom Mr. Pearson in this matter and that is one reason why we welcome him to our provincial cabinet.'

read a little more widely and honestly strove to consumers a thousand miles away, they might have ascertained that a silk hat would carry nearly all the soft coal purchased for domestic pur-poses in Montreal, for that is the point a thousand miles away that they refer to. They would utility in the hands of private individuals or a further have found that the factory owner buy- private corporation. If it was thought that priing a thousand or two tons in the course of a ing a thousand or two tons in the course of a vate corporations and not have a reason to the year paid as much if not a good more for his coal things out of these utilities, to the detriment of than a like purchaser in Truro, Amherst or Sydtheorem and the community at large, it is to be presumed there wants a thousand tons of coal, from the Pictou take sole hold of and run them. The demand for wants a thousand ton our ton the first tage solution of all public utilities is based on the Whereas the thousand ton purchaser in Montreal belief that they can be run to best advantage to while pay four and a quarter. If landed in Truro the community by the government of the country.

and miles as cheaply as for forty. They tell me that Mr. Pearson is responsible in part for the cheap coal hurricane that swept over Nova Scotia nigh two years ago, and is still whistling about the offices of the News and other papers, but so far, has not driven away the dust that beclouds the cheap coal question. If so Mr. Pearson has now the opportunity of his life of throwing needed light on so dark a question. As I like B. F. I will help him out as far as I can, and in order to set his feet in the right way and give him some-thing to start from in his investigations, I propose that he finds out for us, the pronoun includes the News and the other papers.

Ist.—How much bituminous coal is used in Montreal for domestic purposes?

2nd.—What do Montreal house-keepers pay for N. S. coal, delivered?

3rd.—Does toe Halifax Sugar Refinery pay as much for N. S. coal as the Montreal Sugar Refin-

4th.—Do the Robbs, the Stanfields, or the several foundries and other works in Amherst, Truro, or New Glasgow pay more for their coal than do similar sized works, and consumers, in Mon-

I have a correct answer to each of the questions, and the proofs at my hand, but if Mr. Pearson makes an independent investigation and makes known the results it may have some good effect upon the News and the other papers, equally prejudiced and equally impervous to light. My of coal come sometime during the year. When boys we had a phrase "Mocking is catching," the News and the other papers may get something

ries, have it in their own hands and run it for the benefit of the people. There are some, may be a few-who think that one government, at least, I wonder if the other reasons are as frivolous does not operate this utility in either a business and selfish. If the News, and the others in its set, like or economical manner. Some think the U. read a little more widely and nonestly strove to S. government is making a mess of it, and spendacquire knowledge on the subject, they might ing in the operating of this utility many more have ascertained that Nova Scotians are not paying more for their coal than the same class of millions than is necessary. There might be no consumers a thousand miles away, they might occasion to find fault with the management of S. government is making a mess of it, and spendthis great public utility by the U. S. government if as a result the people were given cheaper post-al facilities than would likely be the case were the vate corporations did not have a feast of fat will pay four and a quarter. It indeed in 1 rule the community by the government of the country, coal, costing at the mines \$3,00, costs \$4.25 There is one man in Chicago who thinks that he then the News better go for the Rail- can run the post office dept. of the U. S. to much way Co'y and ask how coal can be carried a thous- better advantage than the government.

name is Boyce and is possessor of several millions, pentant. I'm not going to argue the point, it is He has other millionaires ready to back him up. metaphysical. My confession is that like that re-He proposes that the post office business of the ligous paper the Herald, there must be still a the government to be paid all revenues in excess of 7 per cent.; improve the service immensely. or that government run utilities are not tree from a ballot was asked as to whether the men were in the troubles besetting private corporations. As favor or not, opposed any such procedure, and those clamoring for public ownership of mines asked their scattered allies to deposit no vote, are mum as to Tennessee the presumption is that The ballot was in favor of the retention of the

the deil himself some day might 'tak a thocht did not influence them in their course, an mend', and who knows, who knows? If then minds were made up. The fact is that on the editor of the Suburban, who is, I am sure, no wee deevil, though he claims to have imps in his mad, that he will open the door of his under- be a surprise to certain would be reformers. A strong delegation waited upon the manager and I am not the least bit a philosopher else by this asked that the stores be continued. And, so, after time I must have solved the mystery how a man all, it seems that the men, left to themselves, would

This is the season of the year isnt it when the workingmen. people who wish to be and do better make good resolutions. Before one feels called upon to resolve to be better he must be aware that there is something wrong with or about him not repentant, if he is not aware that he went too far, or fell short, he is not in a position to make any good resolution. The good resolution must be preceded with repentance, and they tell me that repentance implies confession. I am not quite ready for the second half of the performance, the resolution act, but I am ready for the first, the repentant part. I'm not so sure after all that I am

U. S. be turned over to a thirty million dollar cor- strong spice of the old Adam, alias human natment regulation. All postal rates will be reduced the tone in which it is uttered you can judge the extent of my sorrow. And what prompts me to so dreadful a confession. Its all because that, The government would benefit by the proposal some chickens come home to roost. The whirly many millions annually, and the people many gig of time, they say, brings its revenges, thats a millions more. Mr. Boyce may have made the fact, it has done so in the instance I am about to proposal not expecting it to be accepted, but he mention. Eight years ago there were some M. P.s., points out where it is possible to effect large sav-some M. P. P.s., and some who were aspiring to out where it is possible to effect large save some at 1.1.5, and some who were aspiring to the would abolish all sinecures. Theres reach one or the other of these ps, who instigated the rub. On this side the water every govern- a fierce furore against company stores. They dement run utility means a haven for lazy men or clared that these stores were an evil and that selfish ones who have in some small way perform- continually, and that in them there was no good ed party services. Take the L.C. R. for instance, thing at all. They said that the workmen were ed party services. Take the L. C. R. for instance, thing at all. They said that the workmen were Rates both freight and passenger, could be re-unatterably and unalterably against them; that duced without subtracting from the surplus (?) the stores robbed the men; that they tended to or adding to the deficit—if the axe were applied selfdom, taking from workmen their self respect; to the chopping off of all superfluities — Down in drawing them into debt and keeping them there; Tennessee they have coal mines run by and for the and that by and through them the workmens benefit of the state. They are shut down at the bodies and souls were in fetters. These agitators present time owing to a lack of transportation these men who sought for a reform cry, and did facilities. That either proves bad management not have the sense rightly to go about it, when or that government run utilities are not free from a ballot was asked as to whether the men were in the venture down South has not been a conspicu- stores. Of course these agitators could say it was not a full vote, and they sought other means to The Suburban ended the year well. In its last time, they have got a nice slap in the face. The issue for '06 it had an atticle on 'The coal ques company operating at Sydney Mines resolved to tion, and never once said in the length of it that close its store at No. 3. This was not done at the ton and never once said in the length of it that close its store of the Attorney General or of any officer small consumers in Nova Scotia were paying more instance of the Attorney General or of any officer for their coal than a similar class of consumers of the local government. The company may have in Montreal. Burns expressed the thought that received a letter from the Atty, Gen'l., but that the very 'Old Harry' can repent, why should not officials of the company did not want to be bothminds were made up. The fact is that one of the wee deevil, though he claims to have 'imps' in ne was glad when a pretext presented to press Truro, Amherst, and in Pictou, I am in great his views. The flat went forth that the store hopes that when the Suburban Editor gets over was to be closed, and then came what may well ered with the small business of store keeping, and know better, will persist in pursuing devious by merchants. In some localities company stores equively experiments of the company stores and the courses. ful to the merchants they may be beneficial to

In an article in the Herald Mr. A. McNeil makes the bold assertion "that hundreds of thousands of tons of coal are being lost in this Province periodically through ignorance. Coal is costing too much to mine in Nova Scotia frequency through ignorance. Coal is costing the people too much partly through ignorance." So Mr, McNeil has asserted that he is a philosopher and I am not. Well, no, I'll not swear he said it in so many fully ready, as while I am ready frankly to con. that I was nt one, therefore the justifiable conclusion words that he was such an one, but I'll swear he said fess, its just a question whether I am heartily re. that if he can discern in me a lack of philosophy he

must necessarily be up in metaphysics. Thats all right, there is an illuminated highlander of the McAlpine kind yet as Homer himself at times nodded I find even a of which it is said : philosopher has at times but a slim grip of reason or logic. Mr. McNeil has told us ways and times without number that the high price of coal to local consumers is due solely to the fact that there is a monstrous combine among the coal operators. He has accused them of selling coal cheap in Montreal and dear in Halifax. Militant McNeil. The cost to local consumers he has declared is due to the combine. Now he lets himself fall with a thud and says that coal costs too much to mine through ignorance, and as through ignorance it costs too much to mine, therefore through ignorance the high cost to concumer. Formerly he asserted that being in a combine therefore partly excusably to charge high prices. A man is usually graciously permitted to grasp one horn of a dilem na; the coal owners, lucky beggars can school, that there was no dilemma facing them at all, but that the difficulty lay with the other fellow in extrias it becomes complicated.

The editor-impersonally-Mr. Drummond, and Rambler jointly and severally, are the recipients of many 'good new years' with accompaniments. I am deputed to return thanks, to all concerned, in a general way, on behalf of the conjunction-Readers so minded may furnish the fitting corollary. There were a couple of invitations to spend a holiday in Springhill. One of the senders must have had a desire to curtail for a while our activities, as he gave no hint of the probability of an enforced stay. The other was more sincere and couched his invitation as follows: "Enclosed find...... dollars (N. B. the enclosure was a postal). You better get clear of this cash as soon as possible as there may be a few V. or P. microbes attached to it, Give it to some other fellow quick. We are enclosed in here, isolated. Any fellow coming has willingly or unwillingly to stay with us. I invite you over in time for New Year dinner, only you will have to stay with us until the thing has gone, and it is possible by that time you may have overstayed your welcome, yet you might have a recompense. You might see a strike as she is run in modern Springhill. It is this way: We have had fog for a month. Until to-night the sun moon and stars have been invisible. And what are they saying to-night. (29th. Dec.) From their junctions, conjunctions, angulars, circles and so forth they are saying: "A strike is due at Springhill". And that no doubt is correct for we have not had a strike at Springhill for nigh three weeks. Keep your eye on the stars." Keep your eye on the stars," Another friend sends a clipping from the Record, amended. The amendments are in brackets. "We are indebted to the Free Lance for many generous [unnecessary modesty] references to the Record. It says the Record is the most interesting paper in this part of the world. [So say we, all of us.] The statement will serve to stimulate [The Record needs no stimulants.] to sustain the status." A card with an illuminated lantern accompanes this with the legend "Bear the Light". Further

"He wears a broad-sword on his side He kews weel how to draw that The target and the highland plaid And shoulder belt and a that.

This correspondent evidently took one of us for a

In reply to some remarks of mine in reference to the Suburbans use of the word 'scotch' the last issue of that paper contains a funny, yes awfully funny, indeed I should say ludicrous, article, were it not that I am ever tender of the feelings of a friend. The Suburban they increased the cost mail: lously; now he says that editor seeks to demolish Rambler and vindicate himself being ignorant, they are compelled, ignorantly and by reference to an article in the Century dictionary, written by a supercillious, unsympathetic compiler. He also takes refuge in Scott and Burns forgetful that both being poets were, by common consent and usage, pergrasp two. That would mean, as I was taught in mitted to take license, which he, no poet, though endowed with the most vivid imagination, is not justified in doing. The editor of the Suburban has told us over cating his foot from his mouth. It is up to Mr. McNeil and over again that he is a patriotic Nova Scotchian; to give us new bearings. Are we to come down, like a for all that it is my sure belief he does not possess in thunder clap. on the operators for their avarice or for rich adundance the real perfervidum ingenium Scotchtheir ignorance. If we have to come down on them for ORUM. The authorities he quotes are only introduced both then how much for the one and how much for the as a side show. His main contention and his prime jusother. The dear coal questisn is becoming interesting tification comes in his closing sentence. I can picture to myself how his real rosy cheeks assumed a ruddier hue, and his sparkling eyes a lovlier lustre when he, waving all else terrestrial aside, exultingly, asks: "Did Rambler ever in his life ask for a Hot Scot"? The Lord forbid. Rambler cannot imagine ever having been so far left to himself as to express a desire to swallow a full kilted highlander. Nor, in his many fast accumulating years, did he ever hear of an Irishman, in his most jovial mood, call on the hotel attendant to furnish an Irishman for two, instead of Irish for that number, Seriously, what the editor of the Suburban counted upon to bring him victory, brings-a smile. A scotsman, with a horror of colloquialisms might ask for hot 'scottish' but he would prefer to swallow his prejndice, than swallow a whole scot, hot or cold. Some men mix their drinks, some their metaphors and some others, a la Suburban, their nouns and adjectives,

Canadian Pictorial Mining Record **ONE YEAR \$1.50**

papers. It has stuck in the past to the axiom that every tub should stand on its own bottom, but we are constrained from the impression stand on its own bottom, but we are constrained from the impression in favor of the Canadian Pictorial a new magazine paper to be published monthly. The first number displays excellent as a published monthly. The first number displays excellent as a work of art. The pictures are finite as me fit for framing. The pictures morrower are clean, without tain; or suggestion of coarseness. Very many Records find their way into the homes of workmen, and because we think the Canadian Pictorial will have a healthy and relining influence, have we consented to the papers. It has stuck in the past to the axiom that every tub should the nomes of working, and because we think the canadian Fictorial will have a healthy and reliming influence, have we consented to the publishers proposition to enter into a clubbing arrangement. To either old or new subscribers, we will cause the Fictorial to be sent one year for fifty cents. If the reader owes for 1908 let \$1.50 be sent to old or new subscribers, we will cause the Pictorial to be sent one year for fifty cents. If the reader owes for 1006 let \$1.50 be sent to the Record and he will be credited with his subscription for 1906 and credited a dollar for subscription to Pictorial for a year from date of first receipt of the magazine. This is giving \$2 worth for \$1.50. The Fublishers maintain that a twelve-month of the Pictorial will be worth binding.—MINING RECORD AND CANADIAN PICTOR-IAL FOR A YEAR YOR SL.

AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

We omitted last issue to acknowledge receipt

The Gutta Percha Rubber Mfg. Co. of Toronto, Ltd., is not in any way connected with any Rubber Merger or Trust.

The new sinking in No. 2 mine, Springhill, is opening out with a rush. The sinking is down to the lodgements. These are being driven. The new bottoms are laid and turnouts are being built. This lift, unlike the others, will be worked with full output from both sides which will tax the hoisting and surface plants generally to their utmost. After years of patient development and is again to the front with a fair output and good prosmong the big producers.

The bigger coal companies have not as yet prepared their programme for this year. If the Steel Co. will be as greedy as at the present time they think they will be, the Dominion Coal Co. will require to furnish 900,000 tons. With increased sales in other directions the big company should be kept busy. The question with the co'y this year as last, will be where to get a sufficient supply of labor.

Brave attempts are being made to push development work at Thorburn, but efforts are hindered largely by the number of men absent from work, especially after pay days. The output not that the Nova Scotia Steel and Co. will pay a even better, the quality of the coal is improving An enthusiastic correspondent says the coal on end will be paid in April, for the first quarter of Credit is given Mr. Blackwood for hustling things a bit.

with their present mines going strong, as are 202.562, an increase of 69,758 over those of all probable increases this year. The submergary are 202.562, an increase of 69,758 over those of the graph of the submergary are 202.562, an increase of 69,758 over those of the graph of the submergary are 202.562, an increase of 69,758 over those of the graph of the submergary are 202.562, an increase of 69,758 over those of the graph of the submergary are 202.562, an increase of 69,758 over those of the graph of th with their present mines going strong, to meet that the underground works are little damaged.

Incre is much tak of the Lom. How we can Under favorable weather conditions it should not Co. having bonded this and that property. Not take long to erect a bank head and other necessary of the properties named is likely to be the that the underground works are little damaged.

The Dominion Coal Co. has not, as reported, decided on any particular location for a new mine. They are meantime looking about with a view to the selection of a suitable site to open a new mine when the output from one or more of the present mines begins to fall of. A small gang of men have been at work on the Lingan—Victoria district, making a few openings, determing the sections of the seams at various points, and getting samples for analyses. To acquire all this information is rather a tedious process,

of Belcher's Almanac which is as full of inform. Springhill, individually and as a lodge bind themselves It is said that the members of Mechanic Lodge, as responsible for any damage that may follow consequent upon the reinstatement of the two firemen.

The announcement that the trouble with the mechanics was settled and an almost inevitable strike warded off was received with a feeling of relief by the people of Springhill. And when it was found that to avoid a strike the company sacrificed a vital principle of right in the matter, many remarks of a commendatory character was indulged in by the people over the Managers action in this difficult and dangerous business,

pects. The present drawback is the loss of time by the men in consequence of the prevailing epidemic and this not so much through the spread of the disease, as the hysterical character of the quarantine as now imposed where formerly it existed unnoticed and unnamed. Whats in a name, eh? Springhillets can tell.

Springhill is being widely advertised at present. But there don't seem to be much demand for the commodity we have to dispose off. This may be accounted for from the fact that the supply in each town in the Province is already in excess of the demand. It is a former Am erst product that the Springhill people are enjoying at present. It is commonly known as the "Amherst itch", but called small-pox in Springhill.

The "street" has settled down to the belief quarterly dividend of 14 per cent, beginning 1st. April. The Record is of the opinion that a divid-

The corrected shipments of the Inverness Ry. The Dominion Coal Co, have now capacity umn, are for December 15, 898 tons, an increase of 9006 over December, 1905. The total shipments are 202,562, an increase of 69,758 over those of 1905. The wash out on the Inverness railway the

> any of the properties hamed is likely to be the scene of future operations by the Steel Co'y, should it go into coal mining. There are propershould be go into coal in ining. The which would furnish all coal necessary, but these have not yet been mentioned. The coal people must smile as they read of what is being offered the Steel Coy. People in Montreal may look upon the securing of certain options as indicating business, people better acquainted with conditions down here look upon the talk as a mild sort of bluff. There is talk of issuing twenty million dollars in bonds to develop some of these areas. A tenth of that sum or say an eighth, should amply suffice.

Coal Shipments 1906. DOMINION COAL COMPANY, LTD.

ACADIA COAL CO. MONTHLY SHIPMENTS. 1905 1906 1906 1906 1906 January. 17 011 20 615 February 13 566 17 999 March 20 933 19 299 April 13 578 18 174 May 25 377 22 460 June 24 826 26 873 July 25 570 19 983 August 21 710 23 952 September 26 514 22 913 October 26 994 27 222 November 22 670 28 976 December 18 949 26 246	i 4 d 1 i 4 d 2 i 2 d 5 i 2 d 3 i i 6	1 ges 604 433 634 596 917 047	MONTHLY SHIPMENTS. 1905 1908 1908 1908 1908 1908 188 439 188 439 188 630 189 630 1	i 6 i 6 i 6 i 6 i 6 i 6 i 6 i 6 i 6 i 6	anger 57 790 32 356 4 537 34 082 55 530 29 491 24 671 36 704 34 377 18 258 14 688 51 325	3720114759
Total 257 698 274 712 257 698						

Increase 1906...... 17 014

NOVA SCOTIA STEEL & COAL CO. MONTHLY SHIPMENTS,

INTERCOLONIAL COAL CO.

MONTHLY SHIPMENTS, 1905 1906 January. 15 328. 24 310 February 4 644 14 831 March 17 874 25 166 April. 14 191. 23 123 May 19 359. 24 125 June. 16 693. 27 988 July 14 864. 24 177 August 16 721. 26 885	Changes i 8 982 i 10 187 i 7 292 i 8 924 i 4 766 i 11 295 i 9 313	March	Changes i 22 408 i 7 720 i 5 254 i 10 533 i 24 388 i 8 994 d 689 i 14 733 i 14 733 i 6 916
August. 16 721. 26 885. September 19 755. 19 341. October. 20 805. 26 518. November 23 617. 20 726. December. 24 498. 23 224. Total 208 349 280 414 208 349 Lagrage 1906. 72 665.	i 10 164 d 414 i 5 713 d 2 891 d 1 274	Total 535 990 Increase 1906	i 10 121 d 1 947

INVERNESS RAILWAY & COAL CO.

CUMBERLAND RY. & COAL CO. MONTHLY SHIPMENTS.

MONTHIA	 	

DECEMBER OFFICE PROPERTY AND PR			
_		_	
1905 1906	Changes	1905 1906	Changes
January 6 726 5 827			i 21 140
Februay 2 474 6 740		February 18 228 39 358	i 21 130
March 8 992 8 882		March 40 151	i 2 708
April 5 313 10 885	i 5 572	April37 80130 980	d 6 911
May 22 124		May38 25733 912	d 4 345
June16 35718 000		June	i 2 075
July14 009 19 702		July27 706	d 7 202
August 9 86725 145		August39 20932 145	d 7 063
September14 745 22 765		September32 93429 164	d 3 770
October19 61727 452		October32 212	d 9 692
November11 59319 142		November40 47214 123	d 26 349
December6 89219 000	i 12 000	December40 71320 731	d 19 982

Total	132 804	664 804
Increa	se 1906	 860

Total 417 821 379 557 417 821 Decrease 1906..... 38 264

-RECAPITULATION-

CAPE BRETON CO.

Dominion Coal Co 2 913 000 N. S. S. & Coal Co 635 000 Gowrie and Blockhouse 34 000 Other Mines 15 000 Total for C. B. Co 3 498 000	1906 3 131 000 658 000 37 000 15 000	Increase 227 588 122 000 3 000	
23. 00.,3 498 000	3 841 000	352 000	
PICTOU COUNT	N.		
Acadia Cont C	1		
Acadia Coal Co	$\begin{array}{c} 275\ 000 \\ 280\ 000 \\ 1\ 000 \end{array}$	17 000 72 000 1 000	
Total for Pietou Co 504 500	37 000	d(1500)	N
Cumb. Ry & Cond Cou. 504 500	593 000 NTV	88 500	th
Maritime, Strath	379 557 d	(38 000)	C
Coal Co's and Fundy 90 000	95 000	5 000	_
Can. Coal & Ry. Co 37 000 Total for Cumb. Co544 000	35 000	2 000	
	509 557 c	34 500	
InvernessRy.&Coal Co 133 000	Y.	000	THE
Mabou Coal Co 3 000 Port Hood Coal Co 3 000	206 000	73 000	N
Port Hood Coal Co 3 000 Total for L	13 000	10 000	T A
Total for I		1 3 000	
Total for Inverness 147 000	227 000		
This circum		80 000	18.6

8 000 d 3 000 227 000 80 000 This gives a total in round figures of 5,170,000 tons for 1906, an increase of 488,000 over 1995. The last ten days in Deer, were most disappoint- G. H. KING,

ners Wanted.

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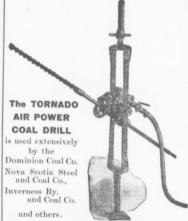
TESTING COAL LANDS.

It can be used in connection with any good "churm" drill, but operates best on the long stroke KKYSTONE, thus making the cheapest and quickest method of oring to be found. In operation a hole is sunk to the coal with the ordinary Rock Bit. The Bit and Stem are then removed and the Coring Attach-ment put on in their place. It takes a 4 ft core out of the Soft-est as well as the Harlest part o, the vein "Avoids all delay and expense of 'rods" water wash, diamonds, shot, and heavy operat-ing mechanism.

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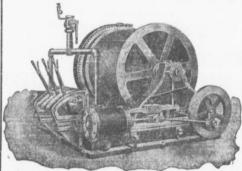
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he Canadian Fairbanks Comp G. E. Choinier, St. John, N. B. Montreal, Toronto, winnipeg, Vancouver.



Synopsis of Canadian North-West. Homestead Regulations.

Any even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the Northburgh and Control of the Control of Cont Duties...A settler is required to perform the conditions under one of the

DUTIES.—A settler is required to perform the conditions under one of the following plans in:

(1) Af least six months residence upon and cultivation of the land neach year dering the term of three veatures is decoased) of a homesteader residence of the father (or mother, if the father state of the father continued to the continued of the continued of the father continued to the father continued to the continued of the father continued of the continued of the father or moties.

(5) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by the continued of the continued of the continued upon much low lands to the continued upon much low lands and lands and the continued upon much low lands and lands and other lands and ot

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST MINING REGULATIONS. SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST MINING REGULATIONS.

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sales.
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W. W. CORY, Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

Placer mining calains generally are 100 feet square: mary use able years.

A free miner may obtain two loases to dredge for gold of five miles each laterior. The miner may obtain two loases to make the interior of the Minister of the Interior.

The fessee shall have a dredge in operation within one season from the date may be a season from the date of the control of the feet of the control of the feet of the fe

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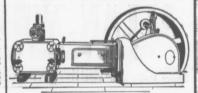
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Time Table No. 21, Taking effect at 1 a.m

EASTBOUND			1	WESTI	30 U	ND
Read I	lown	STATIONS.		Read	U	p
No. 52 a. m	No. 54 p m			No. 50 p m		
L 11 10 8 11 16 A 11 35	L 3 55 8 4 00 A 4 13 L 4 18 F 4 30 8 4 43 F 5 23 A 5 38 L 5 43 S 5 58 8 6 21 S 6 23 S 7 07 A 7 20	TROY. CREIGNISH JUDIQUE CRAIGMORE CATHERINES POND PORT HOOD GLENCOE MABOU GLENDYRE BLACK RIVER STRATHJORNE	ASLAFSFSFLASSSFSL	11 00 10 55 10 42 10 37 10 27 10 15 10 00 9 42 9 29 9 10 8 55 8 25 8 15 8 00 7 47 7 30 a m.	SL	3,35 3,27 3,10

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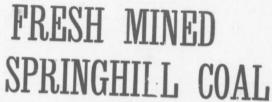
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