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APRIL 14th, 1909

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Vol. 11, No. 19. Stellarton, N. S., April 14th, 1909. New Series

#### SELECTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(Science and Art of Mining.)

GEOLOGY.

Q .- Define the terms seam, vein, measures, hade, dip, underlie, dyke, slip, cross-course, slide, shode,

A .- A thorough knowledge of each of the above items would undoubtedly be of great service to the miner, but I am afraid, in regard to some of them. there appears to be great diversity of opinion, and one has to draw his own conclusions as to the various definitions of the terms by various authors, and quote accordingly. Several of the items could be dealt with on a somewhat extended scale, but where so many have to be dealt with, the remarks upon each must of a necessity be confined and conducted with brevity.

1. Seam.—This is sometimes termed a bed. It may coloured somewhat different to the strata themselves. any one particular seam may not remain uniform, but feature of a seam or bed is that of being a member of a series of stratified rocks, the roof being the surface above it, and the floor the surface below it. It is of position of sediment, or it may be an accumulation of tal plane. These angles are found of various inclina-organic or vegetable matter. Coal, for instance, or it tions, and may be measured by a clinometer. There

2. Vein.—Sometimes termed lode. There is a great ful observation of the latter. variety of definitions of the meaning of a vein or lode, formed more or less entirely since the enclosing rocks, es under cover, or away from the vertical. filled with matter which may or may not be charged with mineral substance. It may occupy a cavity form- encies have afforded us ample information that the and in the former they usually cut across the planes solidided, and formed protrusions or intrusions of ig-of stratification. They occur more or less systematic-neous rocks universally called dykes, ally, being found in sets parallel or at right angles to elevation of the district. They are generally limited few feet the term 'slip' is generally applied by miners. in length and breadth, but their limits are sometimes When the displacement is upwards it is termed a difficult to trace. They are less productive than beds 'heave', and when downward a 'slide'.

or seams, and are rarely worth working throughout They are often extremely irregular and occasionally are found lying horizontally, but they more frequently approach the vertical. There are several theories as to their filling, and there are also several varieties or kinds of veins. They vary in thickness from thin strings and threads which are barely visible to many yards. They ramify in all directions, split up, re unite, and often intersect each other in some districts.

3. Measures.—This term is applied to a series of beds or strata, and is commonly used when describing the strata which contain coal, viz, the Coal Measures. These consist of the upper, lower, and middle coal measures, grit, and ganister beds. They are in the Carboniferous Formation, and lie on top of the Millstone Grit formation. Measures on top, red and grey sandstones; clays, thin limestones; white, grey, and yellow sandstones, clays; shales; fireclays; and num- Seam.—Into its sometimes termes to one.
 reads workable seams of coar an compone to constitute be quoted as the line of seperation between two strata, the 'measures,' until they reach a thickness of thouserous workable seams of coal all combine to constitute ands of feet.

4. Hade.—This term is used to describe the inclin-It varies considerably in thickness, and may be only inches or extend to many feet. Even the thickness of formed by the plane of a fault, or, in other words, 'It is the angle of the plane of a fault and the variety of the plane of a fault and the variety of the fermed by the plane of a fault, and the vertical plane, The inclination is termed the hade, and is measured frequently varies. It may decrease, or increase, or be-from the vertical line in degrees. Except in very discome divided into two parts, by the intercalation or turbed and contorted districts the hade is almost alintrusion of some different stratum. The characteristic ways on the downthrow side. It is of great value in It is of great value in mining.

5. Dip.—The term Dip is applied to the inclination above is, and the non-time advantage of the north of the of strata with the plane of the horizon, and is measurmay be a mixture of detritus and chemical precipitates are also the two terms True Dip', and Apparent Dip', and the former can only be arrived at by taking care-

6. Underlie, or underloy or 'Hade'.-Instead of bebut I think the following could be generally adopted, ing expressed in degrees the term underlie is based A vein or lode is a fissure or crack in the earth's crust, upon (and measured) by the amount a vein, etc., plung-

7. Dyke - A wall-hke mass of rock. ed originally by a fissure, or consist of rock altered in earth's interior consists of certain molten matter, and When a vein contains mine eruptive forces acting upon this molten matter have eral it is said to be 'alive'; when otherwise, 'dead', forced it up through various fractures in the earth's Veins may occur in stratified or unstratified rocks, crust, in its heated condition, which when cooled have

8. Slip.—A slight displacement of faulted bed. each or making some definite annle with the axis of When the displacement of a fault is not more than a direction is nearly at right angles to the most import ant lodes of any particular district. When they contain clay they are known as 'flucans,' which are occasionally impervious to water, and form good boundaries, It is often a fissure filled with matter introduced by purely mechanical means, such as wall rock from a bove, or debris produced by friction of their sides one against another, Sometimes they yield ores of various characters in large quantities,

10. Slide.—A slide is a displacement of a lode, bed or faulted seam, occasioned by a thin vein, often of clay. The term is generally applied when the dis-

placement is downward.

11. Shode.—The term shode is used in relation to prospecting, and means to search for fragments of ore in the gravel of a stream, or in a valley, so that these may enable the prospector to trace the position of the vein or lode from which they have been disintegrated. These fragments are termed 'shoades' and are often more or less water or weather worn, The prospector argues that such fragments can only be brought down hill, and therefore he goes upward, searching as he At. or goes until such 'shoades' no longer appear. near, the point of disappearance, he commences to He may, as a preliminary hushing, or costeaning. measure to these methods, remove some of the surface gravel and wash some of the undersoil for some indic ations similar to the shodes. He washes by means of a cradle and pan, and may do this at many points. These and any other holes he may excavate are termed 'shode-gits'. The fragments near to the outcrop are usually less worn than those found in the valley lower down, and are generally more numerous at this point, consequently they are more frequently met with, and form a good guide as to the vicinity of the outcrop. The term 'Shodeing' means 'the examination of rocks laid bare at the surface,'

#### GASES IN MINES

from safety lamps, giving the chemical compositions of such gases.

A .- The gases given off by spontaneous combustion uents forming a gob stinkdepending upon the tempera-

H2S or hydrogen sulphide, carbon monoxide or CO, and

ion of air form gob stink

Hydrogen sulphide or H2S is the chief constituent in a gab stick, although carbon monoxide is present in

every case in small quantities

H2S is a heavier gas than air, its specific gravity being 1.17 and its density 17; it is transparent and colourless, burns with a pale blue flame, but will not support combustion. It is very dangerous to life, and if mixed with air may form an explosive mixture, but the varies in length according to the quantity present and and coal dust, and thus cause an explosion.

9 Cross-Course,-A cross-course is a vein whose less, as they will burn brightly in an atmosphere which is dangerous to life, but it may easily be detected by its rotton smell; at the same time however, a live test should always be used where gob fires occur, owing to the canger of CO as well as H2S. This gas is also given off by the decomposing of iron pyrites in water.

Carbon monoxide is also given off from spontaneous This gas is composed of 42.8 of carbon combustion. and 57.2 of oxygen. Its chemical symbol is CO, specific gravity 0.97, being about as heavy as air; it burns with a pale blue flame, but will not support combustion owing to its being chemically combined, although when present in small quantities it causes lights to burn a lit-

tle brighter.

This gas is a deadly poison, as one breath may kill man and yet not be indicated on a safety lamp. Whilst it takes three parts in 100 to give the first indications of its presence on a safety lamp, one part in 500 is very dangerous to life; thus it will be seen that it takes 15 times as much to show on a safety lamp as it does to kill a man. From this it will appear that the only safe test is a live test, usually a mouse or bird which is affected 20 times sooner than a man; if a mouse be used it should be taken from the surface, and it should be periodically changed, as it is possible to become seasoned to CO. This gas is also given off from search for the outerop, and if this does not 'meet the gunpowder and nitro-glycerine shots, burning timber, eye' he begins to search for it by trenching, loaming, and is always found in the after-damp of a coal dust ex-

Carbon dioxide or choke damp is also given off from spontaneous combustion, and also from coal, the burning of lights, shots, breathing of men and horses; is always present in after damp, and is carried down in the water from the surface, especially in shallow mines, Its chemical symbol is CO<sub>2</sub>, and it is composed of car-bon 27.2, and oxygen 72 8. Being a chemical compos ition makes it a poisonous gas, as the oxygen cannot oxide with the carbon in the blood as it can in air which

is a mechanical mixture.

This gas is very dangerous; 8 per cent causes dull lights, and also causes puffing, panting and headache to men, whilst 10 per cent. is dangerous to life, and it takes 15 per cent, to put lights out It is much heavier than air, its specific gravity being 1.524 thus making it very difficult to shitt in mines. Fire-damp is the most important gas met with in coal mines, as it is Q .- Enumerate the gases given off in a coal mine, found in the greatest quantities, and is the most des. rnctfrom spontaneous combustion, from the coal itse f, and ive. Its chemical symbol is CH2, and it is composed of 1 of carbon to 4 of hydrogen in its pure state; but this never happens in a mine, and no two fire-damps are of exactly the same composition It is a very light gas, its are called gob stinks, and no two gob stinks smell alike, specific gravity being 0.559 or half as heavy as air, and as they are never of the same composition, the constit- is aiways found near the root. In its pure state it has no smell, but is often mixed with small quantities of H2S, this making its detection easier. It is not a poison-The gases given off by spontaneous combustion are ous gas, but may cause death through suffocation or lack of O. Fire-damp is given off in three ways: CO2 or carbon dioxide, and these gases with the addit- By blowers, silently, and outbursts, the latter being the most dangerous as the workings may be flooded and an explosion caused. If no coal dust be present it is not dangerous up to 7 per cent. when it explodes feebly, gaining in force 9h per cent. when it is at its highest enplosive point; after this point has been reached it decreases in force until at 14 per cent. it burns quietly.

Its presence may easily be detected by the flame of a safety lamp, upon which it forms a blue cap which greatest danger from this gas is that it will ignite at a the height of the flame. Another gas met with in deep very low temperature, which may in turn ignite fire-damp and gassy mines is black-damp. This gas has no chemical symbol, as it is not a chemical composition, but is Safety lamps as detectors of this gas are quite use- a mixture of choke-damp, 15 parts, and nitrogen 85,

these two gases being taken from fire-damp and air, pine. Engelmann spruce, fire killed lodge-pole pine,

#### AUTOMATIC SIGNAL RECORDER FOR MINES.

According to the South African Mining Journal Mr. Russell, an engineer working on the Langlaaget Block B Mine recently exhibited a device for automatically registering signals given in the shaft and in the engine room as well as the travel of the skip or cage. The records are obtained by means of a specially constructed clock between the face of which and the works is fixed a cylinder about 6 inches in length by 2 inches in diameter. A paper band, sectioned into time spaces, is placed over the cylinder, and a small disc recorder, with a seperate needle attachment is ad-The disc and needle are both operated electrically, but is brought into contact with the sectional paper on the ing. cylinder by means of a small motor driven from the winding drum, marking a line on travelling paper as long as the drum is in motion. When the drum ceases to revolve the contact is cut off automatically and the disc is raised from the paper, which continues to travel without being marked until the dram commences to revolve anew, when the process is repeated. The signal registrations are attained by means of a seperate wire connected with the signal bell. Immediately a signal is given, the needle is simultaneously projected on to the travelling cylinder barrel and perforates the paper, the perforation being repeated each time the bell is rung. The time sectional paper thus records each and every signal given, and the times at which they occurred. The clock and registering apparatus is enclosed in a glass case which permits observations of the movements to be made when desired. A seperate instrument is, of course, required for each engine. The machine need not necessarily be placed in the engine room, but in any place which may be deemed convenient, such as the engineer's or manager's office; it is only a matter of wire connection. With a recording machine attached to each winding engine at work, at the conclusion of every shift the whole of the work is perforated, i. e., every journey made and every signal given during the shift can be read off the register and logged. No room for dispute is left, and there is no possibility of conflict of evidence.

#### MINE TIMBERS.

In nine cases out of ten, when timbers are crushed, the indirect cause is decay, produced by low forms of plant life. The dwindling of the timber supply has driven consumers of wood all over the country to study decay and its prevention. Since timber, when it is once treated, retains its original strength, many of the so-called 'inferior timbers' which have hitherto been dynmite in the coldest weather. Dynmite should not considered almost valueless because they decay rapidly, be stored in it longer than necessary for thawing, as the

leaving the hydrogen and a certain amount of nitrogen white fir, and many others. Two of the latest timberto come together and form a moisture. It is a very extreating plants (says Mines and Minerals) have been tinctive gas, especially, when mixed with fire-damp If installed in the Coeur d'Alene lead district of Northern breathed it causes the face to turn blue, the lips turn a Idaho, where, while there is ample timber supply for leaden hue, and it gives the face a ghastly appearance some time to come, the treatment is warranted by the high labor cost of replacing timber sets. The added cost of treating timbers is from 10 to 25 per cent, of the original cost. An interesting point in the problem of wood preservation is the spread of decay in old workings, caused by infection from near-by timbers. A fresh green post, placed between two sticks that are already 'sick,' will become infected and decay much more rapidly than if it were isolated. The contagion is similar to that of the ills that man is heir to although it usually works more slowly. In one large mine a 2 mile tunnel was completed 3 years ago and during the first four years the timber stood up in fine shape. Then signs of decay began to creep in here and there, and since then the disease has extended throughout the entire length of the tunnel, necessitatdisc recorder, with a separate needs of the cylinder, ing an annual expenditure of the cylinder, for replacing timbers rendered useless through decay, ing an annual expenditure of between £800 and &1,000 seperately. The disc which records the skip journeys remainder representing the cost of framing and install-

#### TURNING COAL DIRECTLY INTOPOWER."

A contemporary, 'Fued' says :- A Niles (Mich.) inventor by the name of Benson is said to have succeeded in turning coal directly into power without burning, It is well known that when we burn coal to make steam most of its energy goes up in smoke, and is wasted in other ways. We waste it in a manner like that of eating the skin of the fowl and throwing away the body or drinking the foam from the glass and throwing away the liquid. With our coal supply in danger of exhaustion the story from Niles becomes in-The inventor is said to grind up the coal into powder and force into a hot retort with chemicalladen air, where it suddenly explodes and enters a chamber at a pressure of 500lb, to the square inch, being all consumed, and driving the engine with no smoke or other waste. The United States government has discovered that coal dust is explosive. Long ago it was found by the blowing up of several flouring mills in Minneapolis that the dust of wheat is as explosive as gunpowder. Scientists have long considered the explosion of powder, dynamite, and nitro glycerine as possible modes of running machinery. So that the explosion of powdered tuel in a chamber as a driving force for mechanism is not as incredible as it may at first seem. Even if the Michigan story be not true, the direct conversion of coal to power may be looked for in some similar way at any time. - (S. & A. of M.)

#### THAWING DYNAMITE.

A good dynamite thawer with a capacity of a case of dynmite at a time can be made by burying a box in a pit filled with green manure which should be rammed hard. An iron pipe is used for a ventilator as well as a handle will find wide use in many localities. Such species dampness from the ground and manure would in time are loblolly pine and, to a certain extent, short leaved injure the explosive.

#### RECORD. MARITIME MINING

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SCOTTISH AND NOVA SCOTIAN OIL SHALES.

some valuable information is given as to the oil cipally unwrought, of the Province, so as to be in shale industry in Scotland and the oil shales of the Maritime Provinces. He says the lack of knowledge possessed by Canadians in reference to ment? the Scottish oil shale industry is to be regretted in view of the fact of our large possessions of shale. These deposits are rich and valuable and by actual test surpass those of Scotland. are easy of access by rail or water. All that is required to establish one of the most profitable mineral industries in Canada is the proper organization of capital and energy. The manufacture of Crude Oil and Sulphate of Ammonia from shales The manufacture is now one of the leading industries of Scotland. The production of Crude oil in Scotland is now more than 62,000,000 gallons from shales alone, and of Sulphate of Ammonia 50,000 tons, with more than 22,000 tons of paraffin wax. More than 21 million tons of shale are mined annually. This enterprise, now of so large proportions started on Though the trade met with a very small scale reverses the profits for the past few years have been very satisfactory, those of the four refining companies for the last year being 7, 15, 171, and The wages paid amounted to three 50 per cent. and a half million dollars and the number of employees to 8,300 The Stellarite, found at what is now Stellarton

in 1859, of which about 4000 tons were mined and sent to the U. S., would be looked upon by the

Scottish oil refiners as a bonanza.

Dr. Edis says little is known of the quality and value of the great deposits of shale which occur in Antigonish County beyond that they are rich in hydro carbons. Nothing in the way of analy-sis seems to have been attempted. There are two groups of shales in Antigonish, one 70 feet thick the other 150 feet. Twenty feet of the former may be regarded as good oil shale, besides which there is a five foot seam of curly cannel rich in oil.

The basin should contain fifty feet of strata rich in oil, and it is desirable that examinations should be carried out and analyses made so as to obtain the actual values in Crude oil, in Sulphate

of Ammonia and in paraffin wax

Reference is made to Stellarite which is found at various points, and also to the black shales of Pictou County These latter are supposed to contain a high per centage of hydro carbons, and are thought to be high in Crude oil. On that account it is certainly desirable that examination should

be made of these also.

Dr. Ellis' paper is timely and his suggestions od. Why should not the Government make investigation as to the value of these shales. Reliable information sent to the proper parties in Scotland might result in the establishment of one The RECORD is devoted to the Mining-particularly Coal Mining or more refineries after the Scottish pattern.

#### UNWROUGHT MINERALS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The following is a question put to the Government by Mr. Drummond in the Legislative Council and part of his remarks thereon

"I beg leave to ask the Hon, leader of the Government in this chamber the following question: Is the government taking any directly practical steps to ascertain the number, extent, location, quality or richness, of the many minerals, prination to those seeking opportunities for invest-

At a previous time I gave expression to the opinion, that of all Nova Scotia's assets, coal was the greatest. But not at that time was it meant to be conveyed, and far less now, that coal was her only great mineral asset. Nova Scotia is possessed of other rich assets in the way of minerals, of which little more is known, of many, than their names. Some minerals, while known to exist to mining people, remain undeveloped, while many more, said, by geologists, to exist, are wholly unregarded. And yet, surely, these are great assets and furnish present opportunities which, if embraced, will surely add immensely to the material prosperity of the Province. If we are to believe those who have taken high place as geologists, there are spread before us, over the length and breadth of the land, minerals, many All of them are and varied, calling us to action. making appeal, eloquently if mutely, to be quarried out and put to the uses for which they were intended. These minerals, important assets all, appeal to the men of push and energy, of brains and daring; to the moneyed men-the favored few-and to the Local Government, sponsors for the common people, to be unearthed and developed, and with the appeal comes the challenge, if not the defiance, "Here lies your opportunity, we dare you to the doing." Are we cognizant, as we ought to be; are we thankful as we should be, for the vastness of the possibilities with which we have been favored, even though these be in hiding places in the mountains, and buried deep in the valleys? As Nova Scotians have we, as a people, risen to our privileges, and has the Government of the Province paid full regard to its great opportunity? The answer must be an unhesitating no. If it is, as I believe it to be, a fact that coal, from a mineral standpoint, is Nova Scotia's greatest asset, but small thanks are due to our own people, to our moneyed men in particular, for the demonstration of its value. Of all the coal mines in operation, prior to the advent of the Dominion Coal Co., only one had been exploited wholly by Provincial men with Provincial money. Taking Cumber!and County it is found that the Springhill mines were exploited by New Brunswickers and the Joggins mines by Londoners. Picton

County is indebted to American capital for the expenditure on minerals was 17 per cent. of the thickness and to Montreal men for the Drummond her mines than is Nova Scotia. Louisburg. American capitalists are to be credit-Bay and its harbor. by its owners the Messrs. Archibald and McLean. opment of our coal mines has likewise to be said, the golden egg. if in a slightly lesser degree, of the exploitation of our gold areas. Not to Provincial but to out-risen to the greatness of its opportunity? managed from Boston, and not from Glace Bay. ment of which our people have taken kindly. als, are uncertain

of the varied minerals of the Province. Coal, pos- and perceive that in a few weeks it must be fulperiod, are to contribute to the few sources of revenue of the Province need, for their exploit- hand to the plough look not back." If the Colation, energetic action under capable leader lege really and truly, is to attain its object, name-ship, and who fitter to lead than a Government ly. the training of our pushful and ambitious ation, energetic action under capable leaderstrongly entrenched in power, with adherents un-young men so that they may become proficient in der strictest discipline. Is there any other ser- the sciences of farming, mining, and mechanics, vice-I do not take into consideration the Success it is assuredly, next, the imperative duty of the sion Duties, as they do not come under the cate-Government to see that work and opportunities gory—that yields so handsome a return to the for employment be attainable by the graduates, government for the money expended, as the mines else the College will be in part a failure, in its department? In the last financial report to hand of the Ontario Government, I notice that \$28,000 businesses in the Province may be conducted on was expended to secure a return of \$164,000; while advanced lines. If there is no steady development to secure from her mines a revenue of \$683,000 in mining, and manufactures then it must follow Nova Scotia expended some \$46,000 only. Ontario's that the men the College turns out will be forced

opening up of the Acadia colliery; to British cap-receipts, while Nova Scotia's expenditure was but ital for the exploiting of the famous Albion mine 7 per cent. of the collections and, be it noted here areas with their wonderful Ford Seam 45 feet in that Ontario is far less dependent for revenue on colliery, with its great slope nigh 8,000 feet long, moment Ontario is deriving from her mines, a If at the present and having at its face 2,000 of perpendicular cov- handsome return, it is because she has had regard er. In Cape Breton County British capital gave to the truism, "He who soweth bountifully shall the Province the famous Sydney Mines; British reap also bountifully." They tell us that in the capital also started the Reserve and other collier- upper strata, that is, in well informed circles it is ies, and constructed a railway from the mines to not good form to quote a proverb, to emphasize a statement. If that be so then, on this occasion, ed wholly with the Blockhouse, Caledonia and I dare to be a law unto myself, and say to the Bridgeport collieries, and to be credited in part at Government, in reference to its treatment of the least with the opening up of the colliery at Glace mining industries "There is that witholdeth and The one colliery of any pre- it tendeth to poverty," and to emphasize the tension, if I am not in error, which is not indebted statement by the further quotation, in view of to outside capital for its existence is the Gowrie the important part the royalties on minerals at Port Morien; the area having been developed play in increasing the revenues of the Province: "Muzzle not the Ox that treadeth out the corn" Is it not a matter of surprise that this our great or to be more accurate if less concise "Thou shalt asset has so little to be grateful for to the fore- not muzzle the bullock WHILE he is treading out sight, energy, and capital of the people of the the grain". All of which being reduced to every And what has to be said of the devel- day speech reads thus "Cherish the goose that lays

May I ask the question, "Has the Government side capital are we indebted in any great degree. it any great outstanding measure with which its for whatever prominence gold mining may have name will be proudly associated in the years to attained in Nova Scotia. To native prospectors come? With the Tupper Government we associated in the years to attained in Nova Scotia. probably, is due the discovery of the veins, but ate our incomparable system of common schools outsiders must be given the greatest share of the and Academies; with the Holmes, Thompson Govcredit for the development of gold mining in ernment, Municipal Incorporations; with the this Province, and the fact that the Americans Fielding Government, measures that gave impethave been more successful in the management of us to the Coal trade and gave protection to the the mines than the British, seems to convey the workers in the mine; and with the Murray Govlesson to us that the nearer the management is ernment there may be associated one measure, at to the mines the more likely are they to be suc- least, namely that providing the Province with a Incidentally, I may remark that the Technical College; and may I add by way of con-Dominion Coal Co. was a failure so long as it was trast to these that the Hill Government is notorious for the tenacity with which it held on to of-Gypsum is the one mineral towards the develop- fice and for its sinful prodigality in reference to that once great asset of the Province, the Crown wonder if that is due to the possibility that, heed- Lands. If to the credit of the Murray Governless of the injunction, we have come to the con- ment there are the first Sanitarium for Consumpclusion that it is safer to walk by sight than by tives, an enlarged agricultural College, and a new faith. The things which are exposed are sure, the Technical College, it should not be overlooked things unseen, as are the most valuable of miner- that these were made possible by the enlarged are uncertain revenue from minerals So far the outstanding The time has arrived when the Government measure of the Murray Government is the Techof the Province should play an intelligent and an nical College for which it deserves high praise. active part in the development of, at least, some As we look at the building, nearing completion, sibly, and gypsum, may be allowed to look after filling the purposes for which it was created, we themselves, all of the others, if they, at an early imagine we hear every stone in the building crying aloud to the Government, "Having put your primary object, that of producing experts so that

should be a nursery, from which traders in other of conditions in the Province. Emboldened still countries could draw upon. As mining is the by this belief I would suggest further that the great stimulus to manufactures of all kinds, it Government erect one or two small stamp mills seems that the one great policy for the Govern- at suitable points so that prospectors and tributment to propound is that of practical aid and en- ors could have their quartz crushed at reasonable

couragement to mining development.

ernment should do something; it is another and a respect. different and a difficult matter to suggest some country. The loss of revenue from royalty is but practical way in which the Government might a small part of the loss occasioned by the decline stimulate the development of one or more of the many minerals said to be in the possession of the Province. And I make no doubt the Government This loss is a heavy item, may have found it so. Without any care of be-familiar with gold mining ing numbered among those who rush to where to others. Again, the Government might erect at Angels fear to tread, I would put the suggestive some point a small retort so that practical demonquestion, "Has not the time arrived for the apstrations could be made of the value of the shales. pointment of, is not the Government now in a Still further the Government might sink a brine position to appoint, a Provincial Geologist?" It well delivering the brine to a company to make is a remarkable fact that we had more interesting into salt. At Syracuse, N. Y. there are great salt information given as to the minerals of the Province, works. Salt is the one mineral owned by the previous to Confederation, than has been given State of New York. The State sank the wells, previous to Confederation, than has been given State of New York. previous to contederation, than has been given State of New Lork. The State sank the wells, since. This I say without reflection on any mem- put in the piping, and delivers the brine at a cost ber of the Geological Survey whose labors, I trust, equal to one cent for every bushel of salt, and it are fully appreciated. What really does the av-pays the State to do so. From three only of all erage Nova Scotian know as to the mineral re-the minerals in the Province is royalty derived by sources of the Province? I might go further and the Government. All the others, lead, manganask, what really does the Government know, be- ese, salt, graphite, tin, copper, shale, golena, etc., yond what it has learnt from books, 40 years etc., pay no toll because if we have them, they reold, or from hearsay? How many people in the main unworked. In view of the fact that all of Province knew that at many points there is brine these minerals, and more, probably, are undevelrunning to waste and which has been flowing for oped, the question is, Is it necessary for the Govages, from which all kinds of salt can be made, ernment to search out objects which may prove Are they aware that this Province is one of the beneficial to the Province? Are not these miner-largest consumers of salt, and that the building als appealing with wistful and reproachful eyes up of a salt industry, would mean largefy increasfrom coal, as it takes about four-fifths of a ton of coal to make a ton of salt. There is a market around us for over 100,000 tons of salt yearly, all of which is at present imported.

at different points in the Province, several mag-hasten the dawn of a brighter material day nificent unworked deposits of limestone. Has the There are signs, on every hand, that the people Government any real conception as to the value are throwing off a lethargy which retarded proof our iron ores deposits? Can it furnish any regress in the past, and are ready for strong leaderliable information as to their extent, in view of the her the Government can supply the information, the people know; and if the people do not know, Provincial Geologist should be appointed, by the

to leave the Province to seek employment, and, in order to secure subjects, and hit upon plans, surely, it was never intended that the College which shall tend to progress and the betterment rates. The ten stamp mill at Oldham, owned by It is an easy matter, I admit, to say the Gov- private individuals, has proved a blessing in this It has kept the Oldham miners in the in gold mining. It is said that a thousand able bodied men have left the Province for the West. However, not being familiar with gold mining I will leave the subject ed revenues for the Province, not only from the ernment an opportunity, brimful of bewildering mineral itself but from the increased royalties possibilities? Has not the Government spread before it that supreme opportunity which comes but once to a Government, a people, or an individual? It is asserted a country, a people, cannot be made moral by Acts of Parliament. Is that so? How many people know that at many points As well say that parental authority, wisely in the Province there are bituminous shales which directed, has no beneficial or restraining influence: it is thought could be utilized in the distillation as well say, at once, that laws, rules, and regulaof oil, and that, notwithstanding the fact that it tions are nothing more than idle words all, and has to compete with the oil wells of the world, that strict discipline does not tend to obedience, the shale oil industry is extensively carried on in at first irksome, reaching by degrees to, and end-Scotland, yielding to the several refiners a profit ing in, a willing compliance. Be that, however, ranging from five to forty-five per cent. as it may, few will dispute the assertion that a How many of our people know that we have, courageous and earnest minded Government can gress in the past, and are ready for strong leader-ship. In view of the fact that there is a growing fact that a late officer of the Mines Department, desire to see mines opened up and new industries with a knowledge of geology declared that they established; in view of the fact that the problem were almost limitless? I am in doubt as to whet of increased mineral development solved, the coming problem of increased grants to education, and if the Government does not know, how can and likewise the prospective puzzling problem of more money for better roads will be easy of soluhow can the information be conveyed to investors tion; may not, appropriately, with kindly intent either here or outside of the Province? I am emand honest purpose, a similar question be put, to boldened, to make the suggestion, that a capable the Premier of the Province and his colleagues as tion; may not, appropriately, with kindly intent was put to the brave Queen of old "who knoweth belief that the Premier of the Province and his whether thou wert made rulers of the Province colleagues are casting about in various directions for such a time as this?", A time big with dazzling possibilities, calling for unfaltering faith, un- be provided. In the case of passage ways to be driven tiring zeal, and unflinching courage.

They tell us of Alexander the Great, that, previous to setting out on his world conquest, he disby a friend in these words: "Why, you have giv-sanction such a proceeding, en all away, what have you left?" Alexander re-54 (1) (b) Provides plied "my hopes." And perhaps the Government, should it enter upon a policy of generous aid to lines of every lease, shall be left unwrought between mineral development, if asked the question, the workings of each submarine seam." "What have you for this expenditure", could reply, "our hopes and expectations"- And who will gainsay that these, so frequently overlooked, are not to a Government, as to an individual, if an invisible, a priceless asset. In conclusion, Mr. President, let me, if any there still be who think that an exaggerated importance is given to the subject of mineral development, quote to them the words expresses the nature of the reservation more clearly of the German Emperor when visiting Westphalia in 1907:

"In the bosom of your hills are hidden treasindustry the pride of our nation, wonderful in its development, the envy of the world."

#### SUB-MARINE COAL MINING.

The following is the part of the report of Mr. Foster, the British Sub-marine coal mining expert, who on the occasion of his visit to Nova Scotia last August was asked to make a report to the Government on Section 54 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act with its several sub-sections:

The provisions contained in the Nova Scotia Mines Act were, I understand, drawn up about the year 1877 by Mr. H. S. Poole, then Chief Inspector of Mines. Thep appear to have remained unaltered (except for one variation on a matter of detail), since that time In the report of the Department of Mines for the year 1877, Mr. Poole discussed at some length the question of sub marine mining in Nova Scotia. The informa-tion contained in this report has proved of great interest and value to me, throwing light as it does, on the nature of the evidence on which Mr. Poole founded the regulations and the opinions which were held at that date by various persons interested in undersea mining. I would point out that the 30 years which have since elapsed have provided a large amount of additional experience attended by, in some respects, which relate expressly to the methods under which the a change of views.

I will now proceed to remark in detail on the various provisions contained in the Act. :

54. (1) (a) Provides that no undersea workings shall be carried on at a less depth than 180 feet of solid cover, but gives power to the Lessee to drive passage ways for the purpose of winning the deposit only, under a cover of not less than 100 feet. Although it is true that, both in this country and in New South Wales, workings have been carried on successfully, under special precautions, at less depths than 180 feet, I am of opinion that having regard to the general nature of the beds overlying the seams in the various districts adjoining the seaboard in Nova Scotia, it would not be advisable to alter this regulation. It myst always be

under a less depth than 180 feet of solid cover, 1 assume that, if it should be thought necessary and judicious to reduce the 100 feet limit in any particular inpensed his gifts with lavish hand. Reproached stance, the Commissioner could, under sub-section 2.

54 (1) (b) Provides that "A barrier of not less than 50 yards, 25 yards on both sides of the boundary

Section 208 of 'The Mines Act' 1892, in which I presume that the term "land covered with water" includes sub-marine areas, provides that a barrier of 25 vards is to be left "within and along each of the boundary lines" of any sub-marine lease. This is in effect the same as the regulation quoted above, but I think and I would suggest that it might possibly be advisable to alter the clause in the Mines Regulation Act so as to make it correspond with that in the Mines Act. ures which, brought to light by the brave miners' It may happen I think, that with deeper mining or busy hands, promote the activity of industry, an under special circumstances, wider barriers may be required, so that it seems to be a matter for consideration whether power should not be given to the Commissioner to require such extensions, if considered necessary.

(c) Provides that, where there is less than 500 ft. of solid cover over the seam worked, the workings shall be laid out in districts of an area not greater than haif a square mile, each district being enclosed by a barrier not less than 30 yards in thickness which shall not be pierced by more than four passage ways of a sectional area not greater than 9 feet wide by 6 feet high, with a modification to the effect that the Inspector may, if he thinks it necessary, permit the cross section of the passage ways to be increased to 60 square

(d) restricts the length of any district when parallel to the general trend of the shore line to one mile.

(e) Requires the submis-ion to the Inspector of any proposed system of working and his approval of the same before work is commenced, as well as his sanction to any change being made in the approved

(f) Provides that the opening of a new lift or level in a mine already working shall be deemed the commencement of a new winning within the meaning of the section.

I have thought it better to consider the above regulations together as they seem to comprise those coal is to be worked or points in connection therewith.

The first two provide for the application, between the !ines of 180 and 500 feet of cover, of a system which is generally known as the 'panel system'. Under this the area to be worked is divided into districts or 'panels' surrounded by barriers through which as few holdings as may be considered absolutely necessary are made. The dimensions of these places are restricted so as to enable dams to be placed in them in case of any inburst of water occuring in the panel to which they lead, with the object of shutting off the district and preventing a general flooding of the workings. This system has been practiced to a considerable extent in this country in the case of workings at moderate depths but I think that experience has shown a difficult, if not an impracticable task, to ascertain that while it presents many disadvantages, it offers in the exact thickness of the 'solid measures' and I think to the number and dimensions of the places communic. therefore that a considerable margin of safety should to the number and dimensions of the places communicating with the panels cause great inconvenience, both in the matter of haulage and ventilation, while the loss of coal due to the barriers left is considerable, On the other hand it is very seldom that the conditions of the strata surrounding the drifts are such as to render any prospect of dams, likely to be of an effective nature, being capable of being erected. Under these circumstances, and they are such as I consider apply in the same way in Nova Scotia as here, I do not think that any importance can be a tached to this method of working, but that it is better to rely on the pillars left for the support of the roof being properly proportioned with a fair margin of safety and a careful restriction of the width of the working places and disposition of the same.

I am of opinion therefore that no advantage can be obtained by the retention of these provisions and that their elimination from the regulations would not lessen the security of the mines while it would on the other hand, lead to a saving of coal and give improved facilities for working. Under the regulations the system of working below the 500 feet line is unfettered, though subject to the approval of the Inspector. think that the same condition should apply wholly, as it already does in part, to operations carried on between the 180 and 500 feet lines, or, in other words that the system of working should be entirely under the Inspector's control, as it appears evident, that, in any case, some controlling authority must eventually take the responsibility of regulating workings of this des-I am strongly of opinion that the conduct of undersea workings cannot, generally speaking, be advantageously provided for by hard and fast rules and that a careful consideration of the circumstances of each case, guided by experience gained in the gradual development of operations, is the proper system to be pursued in such cases.

As to matters of detail I would make the following suggestions:

1. In clause (e) I think that it should be provided that the approval of the Inspector in the first instance should, as in the case of any alteration, be in writing.

2. I am of opinion that provision should be made, either in the Mines Regulation Act or in the Leases, most recent is twenty two years old. that, where any workings are carried on upon the long wall system, an exploring drift shall be driven fifty yards at least in a seaward direction in advance of such workings so as to prove the existence of any faults or dislocations, until it reaches the barrier required to

3. I think that surveys and levellings of undersea workings should be made every three months and that the levels together with the depth of cover should be marked upon the working plans at specified distances along the lines of all main roads and round the faces of all workings approaching the 180 feet line of cover. Soundings should also be taken at reasonable distances and recorded on the plans.

Nova Scotia's paramount interest is coal. It is a very magical word, and the industry it has stirred into being is of growing tremendous interest.

#### DETERIORATION OF COAL

The fact that many coals deteriorate, and some are liable to spontaneous combustion, when stored, has been the subject of widespread discussion. From recent observations it may be doubted whether pyrites, except when present in large amount produces spontaneous combustion, though it seems that, while pyrites does not fire when pure, it is liable to heat and take fire if mixed with organic matter, as in coal. Coal contains varying quantities of unsaturated compounds, which rapidly absorb oxygen, thereby gaining in weight but deteriorating in cooking properties and calorific value. Another series of compounds also occurs which take up oxygen, but give off carbonic acid and water in the process. The latter process, which is usually slow, produces a loss in both the weight and value of the coal. A coal on storing, therefore, may gain, lose, or remain constant in weight, according to the quantities and relative proportions of the two classes of compounds present but will almost invariably deteriorate in value. When coal is stored in a cool, dry place, the alteration is, in most cases, inconsiderable. Moisture certainly assists in the oxidation of the coal. The effect of pyrites on spontaneous combustion is undoubtedly over-estimated.

The value of ventilating stored coal is doubtful, as, although ventilation will help in cooling, it will supply the oxygen necessary to produce combustion.

The chief cause of accidents in coal mines appears to arise from falls of roof and sides and coal: others which are not quite so frequent as the above are from explosions of gases and coal dust, haulage accidents, shaft accidents, inexperienced men entering accumulations of gases, and inrushes of water.

Out of about 150 discoveries of gold and silver in the United States and Canada, tabulated by W. R. Crane, only ten are designated 'accidental.' The rest, with one or two exceptions, are attributed to the intelligent efforts of the prospector. It may be significant that most of the accidental discoveries date back more than fifty years ago. The

A blue print of the mine, showing plainly the method ventilation, the gangways and manways, roads, doors, &c., if hung up in some place near the colliery where the miners could familiarise themselves with it, might be the means of saving many lives in case of accident.

It has been shown that the use of very large mine props is not as economical nor any safer than the use of smaller timbers. This is especially true where timbering is used in swelling Stound. Smaller timbers and contemporaneous flushing give the best results. Hewn timber is stronger than sawed timbering. The life of mine timbering depends to a great degree upon its seasoning and the time of year at which it is cut, Well-seasoned timber will outlast unseasoned wood except in wet plhces. Timber that has grown too rapidly should not be used for mine supports, as its fibres will be soft and spongy. Timber which grows on northern slopes is softer less firm, and will not last as long as that grown on slopes with a southern exposure.

# AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

It is said that Mr. H. J. Coll has resigned from the board for granting certificates to colliery engineers.

The Eastern Coal Co. made a small shipment of coal from its mine at Maccan, last month. This is a hopeful sign It is hoped that it means the beginning of steady shipments.

It is rumoured that during the coming season shipments from Pictou Co. to the St. Lawrence will be of very limited volume. It is said that possibly one steamer only may be employed.

Shafts are not employed exclusively in the gold mines of the province. The mine of the Oldham Stirling, is reached by a slope having an angle of 38 degrees. length of the slope is now about 1400 feet.

The statement was made at the Conciliation Board for the latter gave emphatic denial to the statment.

The collieries continue to show decreases in their shipments. With April it is hoped we will see the last of these for a time. If there is anything like a brisk demand after navigation opens the several collieries of slack times afforded opportunity for development work, the first necessity of big outputs.

The Conciliation Board had a grand reception at Glace Bay during its sittings. There were crowded houses each day. The papers tell us that brotherly love beamed on every countenance; good-will only stopped short of falling on each other's necks and weeping tears The Board never expected to find the officials so genial and the workmen so jolly.

Boring for coal by the Canadian Consolidated Coal depth of 3000 feet. It is hoped the company will be rewarded by striking a seam of coal of commercial value.

It is said that some of the Port Hood men applied It is said that some of the Fort Hood men approved one of them clothed with a little oriel authority may often be used to the U. M. W. organizer to establish a lodge at that der men, unwilling to strike, out and thereby cause and stantial assistance. The U. M. W. it is said, eager and all as they are to catch P. W. A men did not think

Spoken to last week while in Halifax on the subject of labor conditions the Mayor of Glace Bay said there were many of the opinion that there would be trouble. And so there may be if the U. M. W. can send two or three hundred thousand dollars into the field. And fur-ther if they can do so it will furnish proof sufficient, for some, that the money is not coming wholly out of the depleted exchequer of the U. M. W.

Coal Shipments for March will appear in next issue as the returns are incomplete.

The Eastern Chronicle gives as the substance of an unconfirmed rumor that the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. will sell out its plant at Sydney Mines to the Dom. Iron & Steel Co. and erect a furnace etc. below Trenton. Where would the N. S. S. & Coal Co. get coal and why would they dispose of that part of their property, which saved the situation during the depression of the past eighteen months. And where would the Dom Iron & Steel Co. get all the money to buy its sister company's plant, a matter of a few million dollars?

It seems to be the belief in some quarters that all the mineral lands in the Province are in the hands of Monopolies. This is scarcely so There are miles and miles of shale over which no license or lease has been applied at Glace Bay that the management of Springhill and at there are yeins of graphite and lead and copper awaiting Sydney Mines had recognized the U. M. W. J. R. active prospectors and parties to develop them. In Anative prospectors and parties to develop them. tigonish it is assumed there are miles upon miles of land underlaid with shales, and in that County only one application has been received by the Government.

Several amendments have been made to the Mines Regulation Act. The amendment of last year requiring demand after invigation opens the several coheres of an examiner to be accompanied by an employee not less the province are in good condition to meet it, as the than 18 years of age, has been altered to read that he shall be accompanied by an employee if required by the Deputy Inspector. Every checkweigher after this will require to send to the Commissioner of Mines a monthly return of all the coal weighed or measured by him. The owner of the mine is required to send returns of all coal sold by retail whether to workmen or others. Before a shot can be fired the place must be examined with a locked safety lamp-by the shot firer.

Vice President Sherman of the U. M. W. ordered the colliery workers of Alberta and Fernie to quit work, The operators protested to head quarters with the re-Co. will shortly be commenced at Lower River Inhabsult that the men were ordered to sign the agreement itants, Richmond Co. This company has been sinking and go to work. Sherman is the bright fellow who vis-pits and boring for a long time. The drill to be employ- ited Gliace Bay along with Keir Hardie and told the ed is the big government drill No. 6, capable of going a miners that their faces were not up to his standard of miners that their faces were not up to his standard of beauty. If he has any of the finer sensibilities he must feel sore at being bidden to undo his action in 'ordering' That is the mischief with the U. M. W.

Mr. Drummond is accused of backing up mineral that in this instance the game was worth the candle, Monopolists and making speeches, writing articles, and and intimated to the Port Hooders that they would see reading papers on their behalf. Probably Mr. Drumreading papers on their behalf. Probably Mr. Drummond thinks he does none of these things for monopolies, though he attempts to speak and write in the interests of the Province. He knows of no pronopolies therefore he cannot write on their behalf. Is it not a little curious that a newspaper classed among these most decidedly liberal in tendency-should persist in saying there is monopoly in coal, gold, shale, etc. If the present Liberal Government knows that there are such monopolies and makes no effort to smash them, then certainly it is open to censure, not to use a harsher term.

bandoned for some time are being unwatered with a the sharp end of their picks. They'll tamp a drill view to active operations. Among the mines expected hole with coal dust and an iron bar that knocks to start work shortly are ;

The Ecum Secum Goldfields Co., will commence the unwatering of their mine next month. The mine has

been idle for two years:

The Ponhook Mining Co., Malaga, W. J. Prisk, manager, are reopening their mine, and will commence crushing shortly

The Sydney Gold Mining Co. are busy making arrangements for the mining and crushing of quartz at an

early day;

A Truro Co has taken hold of a property at West River, Sheet Harbor. A shaft is being sunk and other development work being done

Some work is being done at Harrigan Cove :-

The Uniac Mining & Power Co., Ltd. have commenced mining on the Vermillion property, Gold River, Lunenburg Co. It is asserted that, should the government give pecuniary assistance to the driving of crosscuts things at Waverly within six months will begin to hum as in the old days,

Talking to a writer in the New York Herald a minor official of a colliery in the Anthracite regions said :

"They get so used to danger, I suppose, that they lose respect for it. Anyway, you can't make 'em careful.

"They'll fill a three foot cartridge with a light. A. of Mining.

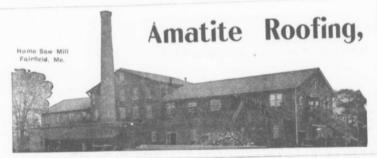
Gold mining seems to be on the point of a revival in ed lamp in their hats and the sparks falling down Nova Scotia. A number of mines which have been a all about them. They'll open a powder can with sparks into it,

"One day recently I caught a man putting twelve pounds of powder into a 'shot'. The State law makes six pounds the limit.

"Here" said I, 'you're breaking the law.'
"He laughed. 'I'm two hundred feet under the "He laughed. 'I'm two hundred feet un State' he said, 'There ain't no law here." And this is the home of the U. M. W.

#### FIRING HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

In firing shots of high explosives safety is obtained in proportion as the stemming is complete. One authority says that in ordinary shot holes he considers a safe proportion is a minimum of 9 inches of stemming to a charge of 3 oz. of high explosive, with a proportionote increase of stemming for larger charges. knowledge that shots charged with a high explosive will blast the work required with little or no stemming, has caused a mistaken idea that the stemming of shotholes is of only minor importance. Every experienced miner knows that shots fired without proper stemming emit a dangerous amount of flame, sufficient in most cases to ignite either fire-damp or coal dust,-S. and



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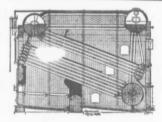
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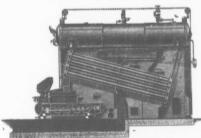
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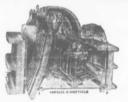




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