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Pictou.

Cape Breton. *

Inverness

New Series Vol. 10 No. 10

November 27th, 1907

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"The acidity of the water, and the fact that "The accidity of the water, and the fact that of all the pumps I saw there two out of three were Jeanesville Pumps." An indication at least that we know how to handle the acid water problem.

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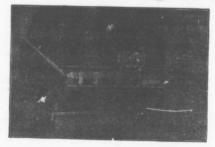
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It is said that the angle of the coal in the old Rich-The Wastume Coal Ry. & Power Coy., and mine now being re-opened, has dropped in the having takenover on June 1st. the Joggins Mine and Ry. level to about 20 degrees from seventy in the slope. This having takenover on opening a new slope and doing make repairs. They want ONE HUNDRED MIN. this mine was supplied the Cape Breton Ry. Co. Deckts AND LABORERS AND TWENTY CARPEN.



Vol. 10, No. 10. Stellarton, N. S., Nov. 27th. 1907. New Series

MARITIME MINING RECORD.

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

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

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R. DRUMMOND, PUBLISHER.

STELLARTON. N. S. NOV. 27

99999999999999999999 SELECTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PRACTICAL WORKING.

Q .- State how you would proceed to tap water in old workings to the rise of your present workings

A .- In answering this question it will be necessary to take into consideration what the C. M. R. A. says er's lamp becomes unsafe, with regard to the same.

General Rule 13 provides that where a place is likely to contain a dangerous accumulation of water, the in the mine. Some miners who do not altogether unworking approaching that place shall not at any point within 40 yards of that place exceed eight feet in width, and there shall be constantly kept at a sufficient distance, ing the cause of many accidents that have occurred. not being less than five yards in advance, at least one bore hole near the centre of the working, and sufficient flank bore-holes on each side.

To comply with this rule, and to deal with the water, which we must remember is to the "rise," I would drive a pair of narrow headings from 7 to 8 feet in width, been known where the pick has actually been sent having a bore hole in the centre for a distance of 6 to 7 yards at least; on eash side I would have flank boreholes, at on angle of 30 degrees and 45 degrees alternately, so that the bore holes would so meet together that it would be impossible to miss the old workings.

Mow, it would be necessary to have some appliance for controlling the flow of water when tapped, so that the working would not become flooded. This could be done by boring through a fixed pipe, having a valve at the mouth of the bore-hole, and when holing is effected the rods are withdrawn, and the valve closed, so that the water may then be allowed to escape as besired. also possible to attach a gauge to the pipe so that the pressure of water in the old workings may be ascertained.

If the pressure of water to be tapped was very high, it would be effectively and safely dealt with by using an appliance such as the Burnside safety boring apparatus. By this method the drilling is carried on through a tube persons raising their lamp suddenly towards the roof 4 feet in length, which is tightly wedged in front of the hole, having tap and glands provided to control the out-

is that before starting work it can be tested up to a pressure of 600lb, per sq, inch, by means of a small hydraulic pump and pressure gauge attached.

When we consider that the water in question is to

the "rise" we must remember that the water, when tapped, will naturally flow from the old workings, therefore it is essential that proper arrangements are made, so as to control the outflow,

In addition to using one of the above methods, I would take the following precautions when boring :-

1.-Have a few wooden plugs about 4 to 6 feet in length kept in readiness at the face,

2. - Have a set of trying instruments so that the length of the bore-holes may always be readily ascertained.

3.-Always use safety-lamps during boring, and have an extra one kept burning a short distance away, in case the borers' lamps become extinguished.

VENTILATION,

Describe under what circumstances an ordinary min-

A. - There are numerous cases in which an ordinary derstand the principle of the safety-lamp think that it can be worked with under practically any condition, this be-

The following are a few of the many circumstances: Working with the lamp in an unsafe condition and insecurety locked.

Through the collier neglecting to have his lamp at a suitable distance from where he is working. Cases have through the gauze and the glass cylinder through this

When proper precautions are not taken in re-ilghting safety lamps; possibly this may result in the lamp being returned td the workperson unfit for use, with a damaged gauze or lamp glass cracked or kroken.

Being in charge of persons who do not understand the principle of the safety lamp, as before stated, which may be liable to produce an explosion, through the flame coming in contact with inflammable gas when in an unsuitable atmosphere.

Through the oil or spirit required by lamps for combustion being unsuitable, therefore causing the flame to flash or jump. Neglecting to put in the asbestos expanding ring, which results generally in a broken glass when the latter commences to expand.

Through a sudden outburst of gas; also thoughtless where there is an accumulation of inflammable gas.

flow of water. A very good point about this apparatus specified type of lamp in use, which would possibly for:e The velocity of the air current being too high for the the flame through the heated wire gauze.

Therefore, in my own humble opinion, after consid-dinary flat sheets bolted down to the girders, ering the above causes, If the C. M. R. A, and Special Rules with regard to safety lamps were strictly adhered to, there would be very few cases in which the miner's safety lamps has been neglect.

Q .- How would you construct an air bridge over a main level

A,-When two air-currents have to cross each other an air-bridge is constructed. The making of an air bridge generally shortens the distance for air to travel, reducing the length of airways, therefore the rubbing surface is lessened, causing less friction to the air. of a district in the mine, or, perhaps an airway is shut of the great ma by a large fall completely blocking the road; then, in-organic bodies. stead of clearing away the fall, and going to the expense of timbering the road, an air-way can be made further out, and thus cut off a large portion of the air way. passing the air up one of the headings which is driven working the pillars out in the pillar and siall system the to the extent of 11/2 volumes in every 100 of water. airway is always brought out along with the work when- cannot be solidified or liquefied. ever one pillar is finished, therefore, it often happens current over the main level or in-take airway. selected for an air-bridge on the main level has the roof taken down until the required height is reached; then strikingly combustible in air. two sides walls are built up at the place, and on the walls battens; then deals tongued and grooved are nailed cva short time, as the return air way soon causes the deals guished to rot and give way.

eleven inch battens, the walls being built, and a strong will burn with great rapidity, owing to its lightness, givframe of wood made across the floor, sides, and roof. Then white wood battens having their edges planed smooth are laid all round, making the bridge tight. The battens when put In should be dry, and the dampness in the return air will cause them to swell add make tight ioints.

In some mines wood does not last long, as dry rot sent in the air. sets in, and destroys it in a short time, cansing frequent renewals, and if the air bridge has to be in use tor a considerable time it may as well be put up substantial, and old boiler plates bolted or rivited together used in place of wood; or on the main level the height required is arched over with masonry, and where the bottom of time to time, and desrroys both life and property. the bridge is, two or three girders are fixed in the brick-

work. Then the floor of the bridge is covered with or-

O .- What is the peculiarity belonging to hydrogen

-Seeing that hydrogen is one of the constituents safety lamp would become upsafe, as we have had it of CH4 or what the miner commonly terms gas, it is proved to us that the chief cause of accidents through essential that we should be well acquainted with all its properties and peculiarities, and in this answer I will give a brief description of the gas and its various properties, with special mention of its chief peculiarity, which makes it of so much importance to the miner.

Its chemical symbol is H. Atomic weight and density I. Specific gravity 0.069; air being taken as unity.

It does not exist (except in very minute quantities) in an uncombined state in nature, but is generally chemically united with other elements; for instance, it is one Very often a return airway has to cross an intake on its of the elements of water, where it is associated with way to the shall after passing round a detached portion oxygen; it is a constituent of all plants and animals, and of the great majority of combustibles, and also of most

> Properties,-Hydrogen is the lightest body in nature, being 141/2 times lighter than air; fifty cubic inches of this gas weigh only 1 grain.

When in its pure condition it is colourless, odourless through on the main level a new road is made, and when and tasteless, and in this condition it dissolves in water

But each of the above properties is of seconnary imthat an air-bridge is aequired to carry the ventilating portance when compared to the relation of hydrogen

It will not support combustion, but is itself most

Both of these properties you may test by taking a jar the frame of the bridge is built. If only a temporary er- of hydrogen, hold it with the mouth of jar downwards, ection, brattice cloth may be suitable to cover the frame- then in roduce a lighted taper to the jar, and you will work, or the frame resting on the side walls is made of find that the hydrogen will burn at the mouth of the jar where there is air to support combustion; but if you er this care being taken that all joints are made air- push the light up into the jar until it is completely entight. This form of bridge is suitable when only for use veloped by the gas, you will find the light will be extin-

Further, if you hold the jar with the mouth upwards A stronger form of air bridge is one constructed of and adply a light to it, you will find that the hydrogen ing off a pale yellow flame and great heat,

But if you take the hydrogen and thoroughly mix it with air and then apply a light to it, the combustion of the whole of the gas is almost instantaneous, and is attended by a loud explosion, the force and voilence of which will depend upon the percentage of hydrogen pre-

This is the peculiar property of the gas mentioned in the question, and one that is of yast importance to the mining community, since it is this peculiar feature of the gas which causes us to have the disastrous explosions in our coal mines which devestate our ranks from

AGES OF EMPLOYEES ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND, PICTOU CO.

NAME OF MINE	Un- der 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	OVER 70	Total	Averages
Drummond Colliery Acadia Colliery Albion Colliery Allan Shafts Thorburn or Vale	133 31 43 34 35	46 69 59	60	109 23 65 26 39	78 32 25 20 19	66 + 29 4 17 4 22 13	19	15 16 11 18	29 10 12 9 12	28 6 7 3 4	5 2 2 2 2 3	3 1 3 2 3	836 271 323 234 263	
Totals for Pictou	276	395	325	262	174	147	98	104	72	48	14	12	1927	

CHEAP COAL CONVEYING.

The following remarks were made by Mr. George Farmer at a meeting of the I. Stafford-

shire Mining Association:-

Some time ago several members took the opportunity of visiting Glass Houghton Collieries to see coal conveyors working on both face and gate. Perhaps few took the trouble of definitely enquiring into all the possibilities of the conveyor or of looking very fully into the costs, etc., entailed by putting down such an important plant as required. From the cutting of the first sod to the filling of the last ton of coal in the worked-out pit, the transport of the mineral and material is an important part of the manager's multifarious duties both above and below ground. Until recent years satisfaction (?) was given by an inevitably wasteful system of manual labor; but now, circumstances have been altered, and nearly every mine has a cheap and easy means of conveyance, of transmitting, and applying power for secondary purposes through motors, compressed air engines, oil or gas engines, etc. we have got to an easy means of conveying coal or other mineral, along the working faces and the roadways to a main road where other mechanical means take hold to convey it to the It is clearly evident that a conveyor to suit such purposes as required will have to be of a light pattern, to be quickly erected and manipulated, somewhat in the shape and ease of a portable machine. At the same time it must be able to stand rough usage, not easily "insulted," and be reliable in action. It must be practicable, and therefore no mere toy, but simply and solely a serviceable article. Sutcliffe was one of the first to invent, and put into practical use, the conveyor, and he gives the following notes as to costs and size:-

"If we take the load on a 5 feet belt to be equal to 1 cwt. per foot run, it gives the total load of coal on 1,000 yards of belting at 150 tons, which, travelling at 100 feet per minute, it wire rope 5 feet wide and 1-4 inch thick, formtons, and would cost at £80 per ton, £5,760.

"The breaking strain of such a conveyor belt would be about 525 tons while the highest in exploiting is not so certain, working stress would not be more than 42 working stress would not be more than 1,000

The United Mine Workers of America nave tons. When drawing coal from a mine 1,000 now \$741.000 on hand. The bloated capitalists, yards deep through drifts 4000 yards long, the The more money the less liklihood of a needless 150 tons against an incline of 1 in 4, 37 1-2 tons, could prevent them. stress due to friction on load, belt, and rollers at 1 per cent., 4 1-2 tons; equal to 42 tons total, £15 per yard, or, say, an average of £12 per yd., trusts.

or a total of £12,000 for 1000 yards. If we assume 4,000 yards of main conveyor at a total outlay of £50,000, and say the upkeep would amount to 10 per cent. of that sum, or £100 per week, we may also assume that the plant will work five days per week, producing 15000 tons, or 3,000 tons per day, and if we divide the £100 by the 15,000 tons, we obtain 1-6d. (one and six-tenths of a penny, or a fraction over 1 1-2d. per ton) as the cost for carrying coal a distance of 4,000 yards, or more than 2 1-4 miles. This is less than 3-4d. (three farthings) per ton per mue.'

Coming to the auxiliary, or face-gate conveyors, Mr. Sutcliffe points out the great advantage to be gained in the working of dip places as compared with the incessant annoyance occasioned in such workings by extras in various forms to colliers and hurriers. system of conveyors at work, 10 gate conveyors, fed by 20 face conveyors, placed at either dip or rise side, or both sides of the main way, could supply 300 tons per day of 10 hours, from 10 faces each 200 yards in length, in a seam over 3 feet in thickness. This would make a total of 2,000 yards of face for the output nam-ed, and 1,000 yards of it might be on each side of the main way."

There may be a little fanciful dreaming about some of these figures, but if only approximately correct, they would go to show that we can, and probably, to a large extent, will in the near future, convey our coal from the faces to the main road at a much lower cost than we do now. At any rate, if not saving in the actual conveying cost, we shall certainly save in the making and maintaining of only a few gates in

place of many.

The way they are discovering the coal seams in Antigonish county these days reminds one of the many McBean discoveries of about twenty years ago. At that time we were told of the find-ing of coal seams all the way from three to ten feet. The new explorers have not surely compledelivers in 30 minutes, making an output of 300 The papers have it that Deputy Inspector Blacktons per hour. The weight of a band of flat wood is travelling to and fro at a rapid rate. Just ted their work as their biggest seam is eight feet. what part of the Mines Regulation Act he is carrying 1,000 yards of conveyor, would be about 72 ing out in doing so, is not quite clear to ordinary people. That he should report to the government is, of course, proper, that he should take a hand

working stress would be made up in the follow-strike. If the balance was seven millions the ing manner:—Stress due to gravity in raising chances of strikes would be remote, if the officials

at 1 per cent., 4 1-2 tons; equal to 42 tons total, allowing a factor of safety of about 12 to 1. The large the elimination of the words "In God we cost of such a band conveyor may be from 8 to with the administration's gradge against all That was a nice hit of the New York Globe.

LARGE COAL MINE OUTPUTS.*

By F. C. Keighley.

During the last ten years there seems to have been a rivalry among mining men in the line of the development of very large mines. The motive does not seem to have been of one making greater profits so much as it has been to get out a large output, something that exceeded the output of someone else; though in some cases it seems as though the projectors of a very extensive mine had also built largely on the expectation of realising increased profits through a reduction of costs by reason of the very large output. I can readily understand that in some lines the larger the establishment or the greater the piece of mechanism, the greater the results obtained; for instance, in building ocean steamships, and sailing vessels as well, the tendency is to continually increase the size and the freight and passenger-carrying capacity and consequently the capacity of the machinery operating the same. In the line of blast furnaces pretty much the same practice has been followed in the last 10 or 15 years. same might be said of quite a number of other lines of manufactures to which it is hardly necessary to refer. To some extent the things referred to just now have been successful and have resulted in reducing costs, though they have not all been successful by any means. will not deny that this tendency to drift into greater things as a whole is not bad policy, but there are conditions existing in some things where there is a limit to expansion.

As an illustration let me take an steamer. I do not question for a minute the utility of the great freight and passenger-carrying capacity of some of the steamers recently launched which exceed in size anything that has heretofore been attempted, and though this line of reasoning may apply to ocean steamers it will not apply to coal mines, and I will attempt to show why it will not. In the case of an ocean steamer the captain can stand on the bridge and can survey the whole of the exterior of the structure at a glance, and also the surroundings perhaps for miles, but no man can stand at the foot of the shaft of a coal mine and see in every direction more than 25 or 30 feet; it is true he may see in one or more directions, where the workings have been provided with electric lights, for perhaps 200 or 300 feet, but that would be the outside limit to his observation from any point. The builder of a steamer can tell to a ton almost where he will get his freight and where he will deliver the same; he knows where he will get his passengers and he knows where he can deliver them, and as the source of revenue for the steamer is derived wholly from freight and passengers he knows conclusively what he can do and can build his steamship accordingly. It is not so with a coal tiems crowded out.

mine. A coal field represents what I will, for the purpose before me, term freight. ton of coal in that coal field should be taken up the shaft, and if a mine operator owns a total area of 1,000 acres of a 10 foot seam of coal he can safely count on being able to get from each acre thereof, by skilful management, 15,000 tons of coal; a thousand times that would mean 15,000,000 tons of coal to be taken through that shaft. It is a fact that a coal-field has length and breadth, therefore the mine operator can, if he wishes, determine what will be the average length of the ton-haul to the foot of his shaft providing the conditions underground are what we might call normal. If the coal-field is irregular and troubled with swamps or irregular depressions in the coal floor, then he cannot previously determine the average length of the ton-haul; and it is a fact that very few coal mines when they are developed disclose the coal seam as lying in the position expected. Again, a coal field may have a good or a bad floor, it may have a good or a bad roof. field may be troubled with cut-outs, horsebacks, slips, etc., it may give off large volumes of water; it may generate larve volumes of gas. The boundaries of the coal-field may be very irregular, making the development costly. The dip or rise of the seam may be excessive; and another factor, which, by the way, is no small one, is the fact that at no time can a man see the workings as a whole; in fact, his observation is limited to a very small area at one time. You can now see that the arguments used to show the desirability of building large steamships cannot be applied in the case of a coal mine, as the conditions encountered are more numerous and comple.x Please do not forget that there are a number of other things that might have been as advantageously used for illustration as a steamship. This, I think, will dispose of this phase of the question.

Continued next issue.

It is rumoured, and the Record has information which leads to the belief that there is some foundation to it, that the Dominion Iron & Steel Co. are negotiating for the purchase or leasing of the coal areas at the back of Port Morien, known as the 'Cowans' areas. Samples taken from several of the seams in the property give analyses which show that the coal is excellent for metallurgical purposes. An advantage too that this preperty possesses is that it is close to a shipping port, is easily accessible and that coal could be won in a very short time. If the Steel company really intend to 'take no chances' then the Fort Morien areas afford them an opportunity to put their preaching into practice.

There has been an improvement in the output from the Allan Shafts of late; and this it is expected will be continuous.

"Mr. Baird's reply to Practical, and other

- Rubs by Rambler.

How much was it that the Herald and, friend Milner who is holding a 'retreat' for the past twelve months, were wont to say coal had increased of late years? I think they said it had doubled. The Herald makes retraction; that Milner ever will is not to be looked for. In giving the prices of a dozen or so articles from the years 1896 to 1907, the Herald shows that while pork, and milk and potatoes have gone up from 66 in latter, coal has only advanced in 11 years a paltry 27 per cenc. And this after all the noise and cent. in the price of coal is proof that the oper- pect. ators are not any better off in 1907, as regards profits, than they were in 1896, for since then ing its mistake it is well to have it even now. The Herald should make full reparation and make apology to the operators for having allowed its colators are at length vindicated.

that "What is wanted here is peace not war" presumably, by the ton. How much is to be paid afford these expensive, uncertain luxuries.—the to a miner per ton, that is the question, and it is phone and the electric lights. one that is not free from difficulty. The company will naturally desire to show that the boxes held the company were willing to admit. The men will now have to take the ground that they

Herald correspondent in censuring the Chronicle. I am sorry to have to agree with him that the Chronicle is playing a strange and, let me say, an unwise part. For the past few months it looks to me as if the Chronicle kept prodding the men, to keep them restless. The Chronicle may not in so many words say, 'don't give in,' but that is the inference to be taken from its language. It is not so much what the Chronicle has said, perhaps, as its way of saying it. A newspaper's first aim should be to promote harmony and good will between masters and men. In order to do this a case should be fairly stated, and each side shown where it may be in error. If one side is continually held up to censure and ridicule then people and milk and potatoes have gone up from 66 in will suspect that the Chronicle has a motive the case of the former to 103 in the case of the neither quite honest or disinterested. It is a true saying 'that chickens will come home to roost.' I have proved it on many occasions, and some of bluster that was made about the high price, and those who look at every question through politic-after all the denunciation of the operators for alspectales may have the truth of the axiom their greed and grind. An increase of only 27 per brought home to them in a way they did not ex-

I read the other day where an English bull wages alone have gone up 22 per cent. and mater-dog worth \$190,00 had been put hors d'combat, ial at least 12 per cent. Though the Herald has by an English cow a short time since. The bull been a little late in finding out and acknowledge dog thought it had the cow securely by the nose, but the animal was wise and knelt down on the brute and crushed the life out of it. That cow ought to get a medal. It did a meritorious act. umns to be the channel, for calumny. The oper- I wish we could have a few such cows at odd times in N. S. There are places that are overrun with ugly bull dogs. If the cows would rid us of The Herald correspondent at Springhill says these, we would be willing to guarantee them at the What is wanted here is peace not war gainst assault from the pound keeper. The cows True. He further accuses the Chronicle corres-mode of extinguishing a bull dog may do very pondent of a desire to foment strife and at the well for heavy men when attacked, but what are same time make the Springhill men ridiculous. the light and the little fellows to do. I believe in The Herald correspondent is led to say this be- the taxation of luxuries, the greater the luxury cause the Chronicle had announced that the men the heavier the tax, and as most dogs are luxuries were going to apply for a new con-board on the they should be taxed heavily. Indeed a reasonscales price, I presume. Scales have just been e- able tax on this kind of luxury would so lessen rected on the bank heads. The men were former-rected on the bank heads. The men were former-ly paid by the box; after this they are to be paid, palize telephones or electric lights. We then could

There were some, at any rate there was one, a larger quantity of coal than what the men are professedly a loyal trades unionist, who wished willing to allow And the funny thing about it is to have eliminated from the constitution of the that both parties will likely have to shift the P. W. A. the words sobriety, industry, economy, ground they formerly occupied. In former conespecially the former, a thing, he held, with tentions as to quantity in box, the men used to which the P.W.A. had nothing to do. To my contend that a box contained much more than mind it is one of the big things the P.W.A. the company were willing to admit. The ought to have to do with. I have referred to this before, and I am referring to it now because I have were wrong in their former contention as to the just read of a sensible thing the Illinois mine weight of coal in a box, and that the company workers propose doing. They have decided to vote was right, and the company will in its turn have the liquor traffic out of existence. This action to declare that it had a suspicion all along that was taken at an election held lately. This shows the men were half right. The question is not one that the Illinois miners know that other enemies requiring the deliberations of a conciliation than the capitalists beset them, Labor's biggest board. A good level headed local committee foe is drink. I do not say miners take more drink should effect an arrangement with the manager than other classes, but I do say they can afford it should effect an arrangement with the manager than other classes, out 1 do say they can allow in two hours. The men should not be anxious to less, as it interferes more with their means of call for conciliation boards. These do not at all earning. If socialism was half in earnest it times decide as expected. When I started this would devote its best energies to the efface-paragraph I did not intend to branch off on the ment of liquor, which does infinitely more to keep scale question, rather I intended to back up the men down and keep them poor than combines or capitalists.

A correspondent of the Herald writing from Glace Bay, makes the following suggestions as an easy way to start a penson fund, "I would suggest that the government use one cent per ton of the royalty levied on eaal raised to form such a know. No the half cent idea will scarcely work, fund; this would be their contribution. It is genuless it can be worked monthly. Would it be erally conceded that men and companies should collected in July or January. If in July some also contribute equally towards such fund. Now I think the simplest way to insure the contribumanner that would prevent leakages or any can- a month at the mine. celling in future, would be to increase present royalties 1/2 a cent a ton. This would come autotold us how he is going to get the mens share of If the idea is a good one we bear with the ex upkeep. It is easy enough to get it from the they made a levy upon each employee for an ato theirs. The plan is one to 'take' at first blush, to the fore. That and nothing more. arguments in favor of his plan the writer gives :

25c. deduction on men's pay sheet.'

from each man's pay ticket at the end of the Board of Trade and command them to tell the St, year would strike the county as with an earth- John Board of Trade to keep their mouths shut; quake for a radius of twenty miles around the they dictate to the N. S. Mining Society and order mines. I have told the story before hav'nt I of it to muzzle Milner, and they dictate to all the the Scotch Kirk collector who waited on a work- consumers in the lower provinces and order them ingman attendant and asked if he would contri- to pay through their noses for their coal. I adsus."—Andrew Carnegie was not in the front one idea is the assumption that the Dominion seat then—"Naw I canna afford a' that." 'Well, Coal Co. are not in the business for profit; their then' asked the collector, "can you afford sixpence sole object in conducting extensive operations is and each would require to pay \$3.20 odd. The Boston 95cts., while from Baltimore or Newport output of Dom. No. 2 is 1,100,000 tons, and the News to Providence, Fall River and New Haven

yield \$5,500. The number of employees I put at 1600 on an average. Therefore each man would be called upon for \$3.40. The machine runners at Reserve and No. 2, having a soft snap. might not squirm when asked for \$3,50 in the slump, but how the laborers might look at it-I fancy I would be blackmailed; if in January some, very many, would have flown and the remainder would tions of companies and men, and to do it in a have to pay costs, even if they had only worked

Friend Milner has again cast his coat. matically off men and companies and could be mark of Governor Fraser offers a text which he adjusted amicably by the two latter, on an equit- considers suggestive of a discourse, and he gives able bases. All three contributions, would, rough- it through the Herald. But alas it is the same ly speaking, make an annual income of about old discourse though the text is differently word-ninety thousand dollars." I wish the writer had ed. There are not a few men of one idea alone. pounder. Friend Milner is a man of one idea, and companies, but how could the companies possibly unfortunately-for our friend-it is no good, It get it from the men, unless at the end of each year neither tends to the moral, material, mental or social amelioration of the masses. True its object mount which, when multiplied by the total num- is prevention. Its purpose is to prevent the Herber of employees, would give a contribution equal ald readers from forgetting that our friend is still The one but it loses favor on investigation. As one of his idea that my friend has in his head is that the heads of the Dominion Coal Co. are dominant in "It would not always be before mens eyes, and every devilish thing, are a set of domineering would'nt be a subject of continual discussion, as rascals. They dictate, he says to the Federal auit would undoubtedly be if marked monthly as a thorities and dare them to reciprocity; they dictate to the local government and dare them to Possibly, but the terrific one howl that would charge a ten cts. royalty to them instead of a go up when the operators deducted \$2.00 to \$2.75 twelve and a half; they dietate to the Halifax bute a pound a year to the minister's stipend: mit that while Mr. Milner's one idea is an evil "A pound, a hale pound, do ye think I'm a Crae- one it is a fairly big one. Included in our friends a week." "Sixpence" was the immediate reply, to annoy the people of the province by dictating "only sixpence, why ma: I can afford that braw-high prices for coal. If that is not the object of The collector got more than he had first ask- their existence how comes it about that they ed because it consisted of many smalls and not a won't think or hear of doing a free trade business lump sum. And it would be that way, I fear, with the States, where in the matter of transport-with yearly deductions for an annuity scheme ation alone they would have an advantage over with yearly deductions for an annuty scheme action alone they would have a nativatallog of And then could the ½ cent royalty plan be made U. S. operators of \$1.50 a ton. It is all very sad, to work equitably? Let me take four collieries, and very inexplicable—from a Milner point of Springhill, Drummond, Reserve, and Dom. No. 2, view. The perversity of the Dom. Coal Co. passes and let us see how much the collieries respective- all comprehension. Mr. M says they are sending ly would have to pay. Let me put the output of coal into the States in the winter time and therethe Drummond at 300,000 tons a year, at a half by keeping their mines at work and their men cent this leaves \$1.500. There are 750 men at the employed, and yet, will it be believed, James Ross Drummond. The men would require to pay wanted to knock that contract on the head. Does \$2.00 only at the end of each year. The output at not that of itself furnish proof that the D. C. Co. Springhill I put down at 450,000 tons equal to want no dealings with the New Englanders? \$2,250, and putting the number of employees at Middy, Milner, mildly, Water rates to Boston 1500, each employee would be called upon for from Norfolk, Newport News, or Baltimore or 81,50 only. The Drummond men would have to Philadelphia are not two dollars a ton, and it is pay 33c, more than those of Springhill. The out-against water rates and not rail rates N. S. has to put of Reserve is say 900,000 tons and the yield contend. From Newport News to Boston therate \$4,500. The number of employees roughly is 1400 is less than half two dollars, and from Norfolk to the rate is 85cts. bottoms as they do from Norfolk etc. we could be run by outsiders. not begin, duty or no duty, to compete with the U, S. coal carriers. If we had reciprocity and the U. S. operators wanted to keep us out all they would have to do would be to contribute to a common fund, a cent per ton of their output, and we could not land a ton of coal in New England for love or a less loss than two dollars a ton, And they have done similar things in the States before now.

The Glace Bay Gazette makes the novel suggestion that with their surpluses the several Relief Societies should start a loan company-a sort of joint stock company presumably. If the societies have surpluses with which they can dispense, for surely it would be dispensing with them if they were put where they would be locked up, and not readily available, then there are other modes of disposing of them than putting them in a loan society. 1 think there were four Relief Societies in existence before the government rendered assistance, one in Cumberland, two in Pictou and one at Sydney The object in starting these societies was primarily to dispense with colliery collections- at least in three out of the four cases. And the chief object in forming societies under government patronage was similar. A secondary object was that an unsystematic method of giving charity should give place to a form of relief to which members were by right entitled. the societies has been a huge success they have not fulfilled all of their primary objects. 'Collections' are still taken up, though to a much less extent. One might naturally suppose that if collections are still necessary it is because the available funds are not sufficient to If collections are taken up at a colliery meet needs. where the Relief Society has accumulated \$5000 to \$10-000, then assuredly the funds are not being generously administered. There should be no surpluses where for 22 sets of miners, and as the level is being driv-there are members in actual need of assistance. If a en rapidly there should be your for a fourth balsociety has \$5000 on hand why should it be necessary to apply to members individually to help some really needy member. There must be something wrong, If the fund cannot meet fully all necessitous cases then instead of a collection let an assessment be made and the money paid during the past few weeks the coal has been rethe necessitous through the society. Take the case of a society which had, so to speak, money to burn. In other words their surplus grew beyond possible needs, as defined by the bye-laws. The members altered the bye laws and gave to a member on the death of his wife \$40 instead of \$15,00. This was a little strange in view of the fact that certain collections had been sanctioned during the year. 'The bye law would not permit of the trustees giving more than a specified amount for a specified time' it may be urged as a reason for the sanctioning nearly straight, would be wholly so but for one of a collection'. That won't hold water. If the menitary straight, wowever is not collection. If the members could alter the bye laws to increase death claims, discernible to one descending in the riding rake. they could alter them so as to shut off voluntary collections so long as there was a cent of surplus, and when the fund came to that stage it could be replenished by two hundred and fifty tons or so a day. Now it assessment, a much more equitable plan than by volunwill be possible to double the output. There will tary collection. Let voluntary collections be abolished. by legislation if necessary, and should emergency arise let assessment be made. Let a central fund be established with an ultimate capital of \$100,000, to meet a great day in very much better shape than at any formcalamity, should it occur—this fund to be raised by a er time, and the development work as it proceeds per capita from each of the societies, -and let the sur- is raising the hopes of the owners of the property pluses if any—there should be none while collections are that there is an immense field of coal seaward.

The fact is were we in N. S. to a fund from any cause is hard pressed, and there will

THE MABOU MINE.

'What about Mabou', is a question that has been asked more than once of late, 'has it shut down?' Not a bit of it; as the college enthusiasts would say 'Mabous all right' And so it is. There has not been much noise, but there has been a good deal of substantial work, and work of a kind most valuable. Not alone from the company's point of view, but from a geological standpoint. One cannot drive it into the heads of the theorists that there is the possibility of a great area of coal down there, and it is possible there may have been justification for this belief, owing to the pranks the plaster and the conglomerate played with the measures on the coast line. It is beginning to look more so day by day as if the Mabou field was much larger than expected. There has yet been no indication, in the sinking of the slope, of any deflection, depreciation, or disturbance in the measures seaward. The angle is about the same as it was a thousand feet up. The coal actually keeps improving and the band of fire-clay in the 8 foot seam grows thinner. The slope is now down 1700 or 1800 feet, and though there is only one shift on is advancing nearly five feet per day. The coal in the 7 foot seam in which the slope is driven, looks very much better than near the crop. There are two levels on the West. On the upper level there are two balances with eleven bords to draw from, on the 1600 feet or lower level there are two balances driven and room for a third. And as the third balance will go up beyond the upper level, there will be rooms in a short time en rapidly there should be room for a fourth balance in a few months. On the East side there is a balance with four bords.

On the lower East level the coal was cut off by fault. This fault is being driven through and covered and is gradually growing thicker. At the face of the level it is 3 ft 4, and the liklihood is that in the course of a couple of months or less the full height will be recovered. When the Mabou slope was being sunk the sinkers followed the coal which led to the production of a slope the most tortueus of any in C. B. Two years ago one of the kinks was taken out, and of late another has been disposed of, so that now the slope is bend which however is not serious, and is scarcely These crooks in the slope made big outputs impossible; the best that formerly could be done was be places in the Spring for forty or fifty pairs of cutters, and the mine will be in a position to put out from 325 to 400 tons per day The mine is toneeded be deposited with the government at 4 per cent. The company is being re-organized, and has been these surpluses to be available for drawing upon when in court for several months It is expected all

matters will be arranged the middle of Jan'y, afterested in the patriotic development of the min-

MR. DICK TO MR. STUART.

We have previously referred to Mr. Stuarts attack on the coal trade and might deem further reference unnecessary were it not that Mr. Stuarts lent reply. Had Mr. Dick now opportunity to an-

opportunity to do so earlier:
"I am not going to say anything in the way of criticism of the gold mining methods pursued in the province, which Mr. Stuart has alluded to. have had some experience in metalliferous mining myself in British Columbia, California, and Mexico. It has not been of a very extensive character but in a general way I have a tair knowledge of gold mining in these different countries, and venture to say and I do not think Mr. Stuart will dispute it, that there is no country to-day in which there is extensive metalliferous mining, where the cost of fuel is lower on the average to the miner than it is in Nova Scotia. So that there must be some other reason for the decline in gold mining in this province other than the price of coal, and I think Mr. Stuart in his argument disclosed what that reason really is. The substance of the whole matter appears to me to be that the yield in this province from gold mines is decreasing, and there is an increased rate of wages which you must make up your minds you will have to pay, because there is a general demand for labor, not only for mining, but for other purposes, not alone in Nova Scotia but throughout this country from ocean to ocean, I was recently told by a prominent official of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway that he finds it absolutely smpossible to obtain labor for railway construction at from \$1,75 to \$2 a day. Only the other day a number of the mine operators at Butte, Montana, had a conference at which they decided to make the average rate of they are exceptionally good men who can get \$4 in Butte. How can he expect to get labor at as Frills will be dispensed with in building of the low a price as he could get it in 1892 and 1893, plant, and common sense practised. when the cost of living of these men has increased from thirty to forty per cent.? The cost of ed from thirty to forty per cent.? The cost of everything that is consumed in this province has increased. The price of food stuffs, principally the meats and vegetables and provisions which near Caribou Cove, was supplied lately to the the people of Cape Breton import from Prince Cape Breton railway. The angle of the seam

ter which preparations will be pushed for next eral resources of the province, should set its face seasons shipping. There are some things yet need-against any further attacks upon an industry ed. such as coal cars, which will have attention as which has done more for Nova Scotia, and will do soon as the forms of law have been gone through. more for Nova Scotia, than any other industry that is carried on within her borders.

Mr. Stewart in closing the discussion said: "1 think from what Mr. Dick states, coal mining men must feel that they are under some obligations to me after all for giving them this opportunity of showing the public that they are not as Mr. Dick claims, charging excessive prices. The silence of paper has been printed by the Mining Society and the coal operators in this matter, has perhaps had sent to all its members. Mr. Dick made an excel- a good deal to do with the fact that the public a good deal to do with the fact that the public have come to this conclusion. It is true that they swer Mr. Stuart he could do so even more effect—have been attacked, and attacked very severely, ually as instead of coal in Britain being \$3,75 not yet they remained passive—there has never been far from the pits mouth it is now \$5,00 or over, a word in defence. Therefore I rather expect at We give the concluding part of Mr. Dick's reply the close of the meeting that this society will pass and Mr. Stuart's closing remarks as we had no a vote of thanks to me for giving them this opportunity of showing to the public that we have been under an erroneous impression.

The new slope, Dom. No. 12, at Lingan, is now down about 90 feet in solid cover, and the prospects are that it will be among the producers on a fairly large scale next year. The work is being pushed energetically under the direct supervision of Mr. Maxwell and Ang. R. McDonald, A temporary bankhead is being constructed. The bankhead is a little off the straight line so as not to interfere with the proper placing of the permanent one, to be constructed after development work has advanced. The surface plant at present consists of an engine and boiler house, a washouse, forge, stables, office and company boarding house. A temporary reservoir 10 ft. deep has also been built. There are two brooks one a tributary of the other, not far from the slope. The main hoisting engine is to be built on the other side of the smaller brook thus placing it almost within the railway yard. With the new pump running and the temporary bank head finished there should be rapid progress in sinking. No fewer than six slopes are to be driven. This is perhaps respon-sible for the statement that six slopes, presumably hoisting slopes meant, were to be driven at Lingan. The six slopes are in connection with the one colliery. Only two of these will be really slopes, two others will take the place of air shafts and two will he dumb. Good progress, too, is bewages to miners \$4,00 instead of \$3,50 per day of ing made on the branch to connect colliery with eight hours. How can Mr. Stuart expect that he main line. About fifty men are employed. It is will be able to get good gold miners to remain in proposed to build a hundred and fifty workmen's Nova Scotia for \$1,50 a day, when, as he says, houses and the intention is that these will be houses and the intention is that these will be placed at a considerable distance from the colliery.

Some coal from the mine in Richmond county, Edward Island, has increased twenty-five to forty which is sixty five in the slopes, drops to a little per cent.

In all fairness to the coal companies, this agitation should cease, and this society which is inwarded.

PROGRESSING IN VENTILATION. By George Farmer, Esq.

Very important changes have recently been made in mining, and perhaps the one which has received the most attention is that of ventilation! and why not? On the ventilation of a mine hangs the safety and health of all the workmen, for everyone must admit that questions of health and safety depend more on pure air than on good mechanical appliances. long ago-some of our fathers remember itthe ventilation of a mine depended entirely upon natural means for its existence, which meant that if a current of air did happen to stray into the mine, and probably into the workings, it was taken advantage of. The air current was first in one direction and then in another, which meant an absence of ventilation in many cases, and to such an extent that the collieries could only work two or three days per week, and were not infrequently inaccessible in consequence of accumulation of gas. It was then suggested as one way out of the difficulty, "that the natural gas in the mine should be neutralised by dilution with some other gas "; it did not apparently occur to mining experts that the best possible medium for diluting it ws ready at hand in the greatest possible abundance. It was to Mr. John Buddle that the present system of efficient and adequate ventilation was due for its genesis; and he, at a meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Accidents in Mines early in the nineteenth century, maintained that the only method known for preventing such accidents as explosions was by thorough ventilation of the passages and workings. It was not feasible to ventilate gradually extending workings with air currents which had to travel 30 or 40 miles; but, as is

well-known, by dividing the workings into separate districts, splitting the air in the manner now familiar, the ventilation, and consequently the comfort, health, and safety of the miner has been considerably improved. Time does not allow me to go through the history of the ventilation of a mine, from practically no current to that produced by the furnace, and on to the evolution of the fan. We all expect to find now in the ordinary equipment of any modern colliery a fan or fans producing large volumes of air with perfect ease and reliability. One thing has impressed us only in recent years, and that is, mechanical skill has taught us that there is no need for moving large masses of metal round to produce ventilation when smaller machines are capable of producing the same effect, thus we often now get small fans and quick speed rather than large ones and slow speed. It might be interesting to know that there was, early in 1868, only one ventilating fan in Yorkshire, the Byran fan at Hemingfield. THE COAL MINE OF THE FUTURE.

By Pres. J. Staffordshire, M. A. If I might sketch something like a modern colliery of the future it would be somehing like this:-On the surface there would be no boilers. The small coal would be coked in bye-product ovens, and the waste gases utilised in gas engines, which would in turn generate electricity. supplying power for all purposes, both above and below ground. The colliery sidings would be laid out so as to utilise gravity for transit of full and empty wagons, and connected to railways, etc., and cart wharves for local sales. The hauling and hanging-on would be as nearly as possible self-acting, all the decks of the cages being loaded and unloaded simul-Continued on page 21.

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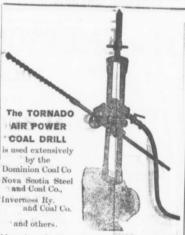
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by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending home steader, so the state of the following plans of the followin

(i) A homesteeder intending to p form his resident staties in accordance with the above while living with pagents or on farming Land owned by him-self must notify the Agent for the district of such intention. Mix mounts noted in writing must be given to the Commissioner of Dom-lander Lands at Ottawa, of intention to apply for Patent. W. W. CORY,

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etted on the gross output, extended to the gross of \$25 per annual for an individual, and from \$25 to \$100 per annual for a company according to eapital, and from \$25 to \$100 per annual for a company according to eapital.

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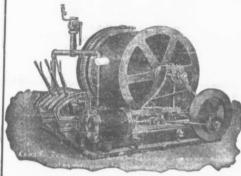
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