

# Trip Mining Going Full Last While Shafts Idle

By DON HOYT  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
MINTO, N.B. (CP) — Diesel-armed draglines are laying bare coal seams of this remote corner of the Maritimes coal em- pire, but hardened shaft miners are looking for a rebirth of under- ground pits next year.

Increased industrial activity in New Brunswick has kept bright otherwise gloomy Maritim picture and mine officials expect there will be jobs for 600 miners here with the opening of new shafts.

Long-armed draglines, with a daily digging capacity equivalent to that of 150 men, are currently pro- ducing 80 per cent of the coal mined here.

"That's just the opposite to what should be," said one grimy miner. "These fellows hardly get their hands dirty."

PRODUCT OF WAR DAYS  
The lines moved into Minto during the Second World War when a manpower shortage forced oper- ators to turn to machines to get coal out of the ground and into engine plant furnaces.

When the miners returned, the dragline had earned a permanent spot in the economy of this area which depends solely on coal for its existence.

Huge mounds of earth blanch the town's outskirts. The dune-like mounds grow higher each day as ton buckets strip valueless earth from precious coal.

In some places, the draglines sit like bulky predators on the edge of foot trenches as surface miners shovel the bare coal into waiting trucks.

REHABILITATION COST  
Lorne Crawford, a sturdy inde- pendent whose stripping methods

have produced 50,000 tons of coal so far this year, is in sympathy with critics who want operators to level the mounds or plant trees on them when the coal is exhausted. "They should be levelled or planted," he says. "But where's the money coming from?"

"If the government would return five of the 14-cent tax we pay on a ton of coal, then we'd level it." Another independent estimated, however, it would cost 50 cents a ton to rehabilitate the 500 acres stripped annually.

Present prices for Minto coal are \$7.95 a ton when sold to pulp mills or railways, and \$8.10 to power stations. Between 700,000 and 900,000 tons have been mined this year.

NON-UNION MEN  
Crawford owns one of the area's 15 or 20 draglines that each dredge between 300 and 400 tons of coal a day. His mining crew totals 21, including a \$6,000-a-year dragline operator and his helper. All are non-union men.

"My men wouldn't join a union," says Crawford. "They know they are better paid than they would be otherwise."

Mathias Wuhr, grizzled, 57-year-old sub-district board member of the United Mine Workers District 26 (U.M.W.) which embraces 11,000 Maritimes miners, is an under- ground miner who sees the drag- line as a threat to his men.

"Some of the strip mines are working 24 hours a day while the shaft mines are down to one shift," Wuhr says in a voice still bearing traces of the German homeland he left 41 years ago.

"The shaft miners don't like it our (union) local membership averages about 450. Seventy-five years ago there were about 1,100 or 1,200 miners here.

"The lines employ very few

men, but they get more coal." About 250 men, mostly non-union, are working the strip mines. But Wuhr is optimistic about the future for the underground miner. "The new shaft mine is making a comeback in Minto," he says. "There are three new shafts ready to operate between now and Christ- mas. We're going to have a short- age of miners next year. . . We'll need a total of 600 men. . . We'll see no place in Minto how-

## CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

**NO EXCUSE**  
A run-of-the-mill declarer might be excused for losing the redoub- led contract below, but South was an experienced bridge-club play- er, so he had no excuse.

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ J 8  
♥ 7 5 4 3 2  
♦ 9 8 5 2  
♣ Q J 10 9

♠ 6 5 4 3  
♥ K Q 10 9 6  
♦ A K Q 10 9 7 2  
♣ A K 8 2

The bidding:  
West North East South  
4♥ Pass Pass 4♠  
Pass Pass Dbie. Redble.  
Pass Pass Pass

South's four-spade overcall of the four-heart shutout was decid- edly conservative, and so he was perfectly right, of course, in re- doubling.

If West had opened a heart, South couldn't have gone wrong. Suppose East ruffed. Then South could safely ruff his other low heart in dummy, and lose nothing but the ruff at Trick 1 and two club tricks. If East declined to ruff, South would win the first trick and then ruff both of his low hearts in dummy, making an overtrick.

All this, however, is only "what might have been." Actually, West led the ace of diamonds, and that gave South the chance to make a bad mistake. He trumped the dia- mond ace, then laid down the ace of hearts—and the hand disinte- grated. East ruffed the heart ace and returned a trump, and South was left with two heart losers and only one trump in dummy. So East-West scored up 400 points.

In view of the fact that West had started off with a vulnerable four-heart bid, South should have been fully prepared to find East with a heart void. So instead of laying down and jeopardizing a heart honor, South should have conceded a low heart to the enemy at Trick 2. Then, regard- less of the defense or the posi- tion of cards, South could be sure of ruffing his one other losing heart with a high trump in dum- my, after which he could draw trumps, cash the ace and king of hearts, and let the opponents take their two club tricks. Instead of losing 400 points, South would have earned 1030.

## WELLINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shroater of Beverly Hills, New York, recently visited with Mr. Joseph B. Arse- nault.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Blanchard and daughter of Charlottetown recently visited Mr. Thomas Noonan, Wellington Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Arsenault and family, Mr. Woodman and son, Miss Cleome Arsenault, all of Borden and Mrs. Lily Arsenault, Miscouche, were recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Arsenault.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gaudet and family left recently for Bagot- ville, Quebec where they will make their home. Mr. Gaudet being station- ed with the R.C.A.F.

A very pretty wedding was sol- emnized at Mount Carmel Church Wednesday morning Oct. 12th at 8 o'clock when Emma G. A. I. a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvain Gallant, Cape Egmont was united in marriage to Nazaire Arsenault son of Mr. and Mrs. Tilmore Arsenault, Mount Carmel, Rev. J.

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F. Buote performed the ceremony. The bride was given in marriage by her father. The wedding music was played by Mr. Edward Poirer. Miss Zaida Arsenault, sister of the groom was bridesmaid and Fred Gallant, brother of the bride attended the groom. Breakfast was served at the home of the groom to 40 guests. Bridal party then motored to Charlottetown and had dinner at ueen Hotel. Supper was served at the bride's home to 150 guests.

Out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Russell Phaneuff, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hickey, Summerside and Kenneth Gaudet, Lawrence, Mass. They will reside in Summ- erside where the groom is employed. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Downing and son Joseph George of New Bed- ford, Mass., recently spent a few days in Cape Egmont visiting Mr. and Mrs. Felix Gallant, Mr. and Mrs. Tilmor Gallant and other friends.

Mr. Kenneth Gaudet, Lawrence, Mass., recently spent a week visit-

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ing his uncle and aunt. Mr. and Mrs. Sylvain Gallant.

Mr. Jerry Arsenault, Chelsea, Mass., recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Ben. V. Gallant, Cape Eg- mont.

Miss Georgina Gallant, employ- ed in Summerside visited her par-

ents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Gal- lant, Cape Egmont.

Mr. and Mrs. Glorice Wedge ac- companied by Miss Josephine Ar- senault, sister of Mrs. Wedge to Shediak, N. B. with whom she

spent a months visit. They will also visit in Moncton before re- turning home.

Miss Frances Barlow spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Earl MacEachern, Summerside. BM

## END OF THE MONTH SALE AT S. A. McDONALD'S

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Roast BEEF, lb. . . . . 47c			Roast PORK, lb. . . . . 43c			

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