

NOVA SCOTIA COAL MINES.

*Speech delivered in the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia,
Saturday, January 21st, 1893, by HON. WILLIAM S.
FIELDING, Member for the City and County of Halifax,
and Premier of the Province.*

HON. MR. FIELDING asked leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act for the further encouragement of Coal Mining." In doing so he said :—

I am not unaware that the introduction of this measure has been looked forward to with great interest, not only by the members of this House, but also by the people of the Province, and by the people generally throughout the Dominion. Indeed, I do not think it would be too much to say that the proposed legislation has also attracted much interest even in the great republic to the south of us, and that it is at this moment a question of continental importance. If any difference of opinion should arise in respect to the measure itself, even if nothing further is attained, I believe that we can all rejoice that the great mineral wealth of the Province, of which we have boasted so long, has at last commanded widespread attention. I am bound to say that some measure of the interest which has been excited is due, not to any action of the Government, but to unfriendly critics, whose erroneous reports of the measure have tended to increase the public interest in the subject. Without being actuated by the best intentions they have in this way done the Province a service which I am willing to recognize.

MINERAL WEALTH OF NOVA SCOTIA

We have for many years been accustomed to look upon the mineral wealth of Nova Scotia. We have recognized the fact that in the treasures of the earth we possess one of the most important factors in promoting the progress and prosperity of the country. Providence