

✓ COAL.

We have lately received letters from abroad asking for general and varied information about our Province. The queries cannot be answered in one number, and for the benefit of our correspondents and others at a distance we have determined to quote, in the RESOURCES, largely from the Government Reports on the various industries. The following, from the report of the Minister of Mines, shows what our coal mines did last year:

The following figures show the output of each year from 1874 to 1882, inclusive: 1874, 81,000 tons; 1875, 110,000 tons; 1876, 139,000 tons; 1877, 154,009 tons; 1878, 171,000 tons; 1879, 241,000 tons; 1880, 268,000 tons; 1881, 228,000 tons; 1882, 282,000 tons.

During the year ending 31st December, 1882, coal mining was carried on by the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, at Douglas Pit, Chase River and Southfield and by Dunsmuir, Diggle & Company, at North and South Wellington Collieries.

The output of coal for 1882 at the above named collieries, amounted to 282,139 tons; being an increase of 54,139 tons above the product of 1881 and the highest yet attained in any year.

The coal in stock on the 1st January, 1882, amounted to 9,318 tons; which quantity together with 282,139 tons raised, made a total of 291,458 tons of coal for consumption and sale.

In 1882, 232,411 tons of coal were shipped from this Province to San Francisco, and ports in California; Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington Territory (for gas making); ports in Alaska Territory; Mexican Ports; China; and the Hawaiian Islands; and to mail steamships and vessels calling.

Sales of 59,161 tons have been made for home consumption by local steam vessels, manufactories, and for gas making, and household and other uses. The domestic sales for the year are 15,970 tons more than the sales of 1881.

The stock of coal which was on hand at the Collieries at the end of the year 1882, amounted to 2,885 tons.

It is proper that I should explain that although the general output of coal for 1882 has been kept up comparatively well, yet if the operations at Chase River Mine had not been so much hampered by troubles by flooding, and other mining casualties, which prevented the Vancouver Coal Company from producing their usual output from their mine, the aggregate output for the year would have still further exceeded any former returns. I believe, however, that the mining difficulties which have beset this company are being surmounted, and I anticipate that with the extension of the lower workings of Chase River Mine, and the continued development of the Southfield seam, the company will soon be able to realize their former output from these mines alone.

With regard to the shipments of coal for 1882, about 158,000 tons were destined for San Francisco, being slightly less than the consignments of 1881.

The total receipts for 1882 at San Francisco (our principal foreign market), as shown by the commer-

cial returns of that port, amounted to about 883,000 tons, contributed as follows:—

	Tons.
Mount Diablo.....	113,255
Coos Bay.....	14,533
Seattle.....	154,611
Tacoma.....	54,627
British Columbia.....	157,762
Australia.....	158,901
Great Britain.....	188,771
Cumberland.....	14,860
Anthracite.....	24,996
Chili.....	580
Total.....	882,896

It will be observed that British Columbia stands high in rank as a source of the coal supply of the important market of San Francisco, where our article holds a well-established reputation.

One able commercial publication at that port recently remarks—"British Columbia has been supplying this market with coal for about a quarter of a century. The oldest claims of this character are at Nanaimo. For a dozen years or more Departure Bay has been gaining in prominence as a source of coal and the Wellington Colliery sends along its regular quota monthly; its popularity as a domestic coal finds it a ready sale at top prices.

With such a record, and bearing in mind the fluctuating character of the supplies from Great Britain and Australia, this Province may reasonably reckon upon finding room in the San Francisco market for an expansion of its coal trade full commensurate with the probable increase of production, and at fairly remunerative prices for many years to come.

For some time past a considerable portion of the exported coal has been shipped direct from this Province to Wilmington in Southern California, as railway lines and other consumers in that part of the State that formerly drew their supplies from San Francisco are now chiefly supplied at Wilmington.

His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, Governor-General of Canada, during his stay at Nanaimo, visited the collieries, and by personal investigation obtained a knowledge of our mineral resources and an insight into the mode of working and shipping our coal that appeared to impress him very favourably.

In this connection, I trust it will be pardonable for me to refer to the comments of the London *Times* upon the remarks as to our coal industry made by His Excellency the Governor-General at the Victoria banquet.

The *Times* says:—"The Colony (British Columbia) may be said to have owed its existence to the discovery of gold in 1856; and now that the supply of nuggets has ceased and the gold has to be sought for by the costly method of a regular siege, there is still wealth to be gained from the coal fields. The coal from the Nanaimo mines now leads the market at San Francisco, and there is no reason to doubt the Governor-General's forecast that before long Nanaimo will become one of the chief mining stations on the American continent."

The Canadian Tariff still presses upon our coal industry, and the inequitable impost of 75 cents per ton heavily handicaps our coal on its entry into the United States.

NANAIMO COLLIERY.

DOUGLAS PIT.

At this mine there are only a few miners sending out coal at present, but that will not last long as they