

It is divided into two halves by the Brás D'or Lake. Of these the southern half is in many respects the most important.

MINERALS.

It contains the only bed of coal on the Atlantic seaboard of both Americas. The land area of this bed of coal is 200 square miles, and the number of available tons in the Submarine areas alone are set down in the Nova Scotia report as 2,000,000,000 tons. In developing this inexhaustible supply, Capitalists have expended \$10,000,000 of money. Nearly all the seams lie at easy angles, yield little water, and, owing to the generally firm character of the roof, they can be mined with unusual cheapness and safety. So strongly marked is the impermeable nature of the strata that, at a moderate depth, the submarine workings are perfectly dry. ("Gilpin's report, 1886.") Last year the total output of these mines was 751,997 tons of coal, yielding a royalty to the Provincial Treasury of Nova Scotia of over \$50,000.

Below is an extract from the Mines' Report, by Mr. Gilpin, Inspector of Mines. The reference to the manufacture and sale of Coke has a very direct bearing upon the importance of constructing the proposed road. This will be shown further on in referring to Louisbourg as a seat for smelting.

CAPE BRETON CO.

The total sales for this County were 751,997 tons, against 738,250 tons in 1888, and 715,442 tons in 1887.

The home sales were 200,182 tons, compared with 190,508 tons in the year 1888.

The sales to Quebec were 381,074 tons, against 381,012 tons during the former year.

The United States took 5,333 tons of round coal, and 13,733 tons of slack coal, against 2,685 tons of round, and 21,098 tons of slack coal sent there the year before.

The manufacture of coke at the Gowrie has been continued, and I understand that the quality of the article is satisfactory.