

COAL CONSUMPTION.

We have already given figures showing the total yield of Nova Scotia coal mines during 1884, as well as the quantities sent to different countries. In the subjoined list the output of the various collieries is given.

Collieries.	Seams.	Produce. tons.
CUMBERLAND COUNTY.		
Chignecto	North Seam.....	11,644
Joggins	Joggins.....	25,034
Milner	155
Minudie	10,023
Scotia	North Seam and Main	609
Springhill	Black and South.....	232,481
CAPE BRETON COUNTY.		
Baraisois	Lingan Main Seam	78
Blockhouse	Blockhouse	23,668
Bridgeport	Phelan	3,115
Caledonia	Phelan	69,461
Glace Bay	Harbor.....	36,138
Gowrie	McAulay	89,384
Ingraham	200
International	Harbor.....	87,216
Lingan	Lingan	23,404
Ontario	Phelan	5,890
Reserve	Phelan	96,114
Sydney	Sydney Main.....	149,378
Victoria	Vic oria	14,112
PICTOU COUNTY.		
Acadia	Acadia Seam	115,451
Albion	Third and McGregor	201,557
Intercolonial	Acadia	120,656
Vale	McBean and Greener	73,529

Total production in gross tons ...1,389,295

The total output was 1,389,295 tons, the largest ever made in a year except in 1883, which exceeded it by 33,268 tons. The sales made were 1,261,650 tons and the colliery consumption was 116,769 tons.

The sales of the year amounted to 945,518 tons round coal, and 316,132 tons slack. A decrease, as compared with 1883, of 70,900 tons of round, and an increase of 35,027 tons of slack. At present about 85,000 tons of the slack is burned into coke. The principal customers using slack for other purposes during the past year are:—United States, 51,519 tons; Quebec, 46,353 tons; New Brunswick, 38,061 tons; P. E. Island, 27,532 tons; Nova Scotia, 75,000 tons. It is important to observe that this grade of coal namely, slack, now forms the bulk of the export of fuel from Nova Scotia to the United States. Most of that sold in the Dominion is for steam raising in stationary boilers, and some, especially in Prince Edward Island, for lime burning. It is in many cases an excellent fuel for raising steam, and "its introduction at the boilers of our collieries has given results equal to those of round coal, at a diminished cost."

The sales to the United States were 64,515 tons, as against 102,755 tons last year, and of this only 12,996 tons was round coal, the smallest recorded since the year 1850, except during 1879, when they were 51,641 tons. It is also seen that while local sales, within the province, as well as to P. E. Island and Newfoundland have increased, those to New Brunswick, Quebec and the West Indies are lessened.

The distribution of the sales was as below:—

Markets.	Year 1884.	Year 1883.
Nova Scotia.		
Land sales	266,475	259,266
Sea borne.....	226,575	212,061
New Brunswick	158,420	167,740
Newfoundland.....	86,216	61,678

P. E. Island.....	50,399	48,088
Quebec	396,782	410,605
West Indies.....	9,595	31,860
United States	64,515	102,755
Other countries	2,673	3,470
Total.....	1,261,650	1,297,523

LIFE ASSURANCE IN NEW YORK STATE.

Life, Casualty and Assessment Insurance is the theme of Superintendent McCall's second volume of the New York Insurance Report for 1884. Mr. McCall's report proper extends over about fifty pages. The volume contains, besides, 100 pages of statistical tables, &c., relating to life and casualty matters; 170 pages abstracts of reports of life companies, receiver's statements—those of the Atlantic, Mutual, and Globe Mutual among them—151 pages containing reports of Co-operative Insurance Associations, to the number of one hundred and twenty-seven, doing business in New York State; insurance decisions by the State Court of Appeals; insurance laws of N. Y. passed last year.

The results of the business of the life companies in 1884 are considered by the superintendent to be extremely gratifying in view of the great financial losses of the year. "The truth is, that the companies are now established on such a firm foundation that they command and receive the confidence of every thoughtful person." Notwithstanding that the year has been one of numerous business failures, accompanied by the excitement and distraction caused by the long canvass of a presidential campaign, the business of all the companies, doing business in the State, has continued to increase. The number of regular life companies was the same as in the previous year, namely twenty-nine. A comparison of the two years is furnished in the subjoined table:—

	1883.	1884.
Number.....	29	29
Assets.....	\$471,805,920	\$491,487,719
Reserve.....	384,845,455	402,884,463
Total liabilities..	391,507,827	409,676,528
Surplus.....	80,298,093	81,811,191
Premiums received	67,822,119	72,016,264
Total income ..	92,562,753	96,974,376
Claims paid.....	\$ 33,894,306	\$ 35,602,543
Dividends to policy-holders	13,417,465	13,043,498
Paid for forfeited policies.....	8,837,856	9,508,530
Expenses	15,295,265	18,153,436
Total disbursements	71,743,589	76,632,098

It is shown by the above table that about 13½ per cent. of the whole income has been paid to policy-holders in the shape of dividends, the amount so paid amounting to \$18,000,000; while for dividends to stockholders, only the trifling sum of \$329,000 was paid. The number of policies issued has gone up from 705,659 at the beginning of the year to 750,567 at its close and the aggregate insurance in force in the State from \$1,763,780,000 to \$1,870,728,000.

Mr. McCall evidently recognizes the feeling which exists in the minds of many people, namely, that while life insurance of some sort is necessary, the "old-line" sort, while admittedly the safest, is too dear, and therefore they must join some co-operative concern. Perhaps if these people knew be-

forehand how much their heirs would get at their death, they would see that the regular life companies were the cheapest, not only relatively but actually. The report has this to say about assessment companies:—

"The operations of the assessment organizations have not in any way interfered, apparently, with the transactions of the regular companies; in fact the co-operative societies have created an interest in life insurance protection that but for their efforts would otherwise have remained uncultivated. The customers of the regular companies and that of the co-operative organizations differ essentially in financial standing; while the rates which the former are compelled to exact to provide for the amounts they pledge and promise positively to pay, force the less prosperous of our population to seek protection for their families in the fraternal societies and co-operative institutions, knowing, however, that the contributions of their fellow members will be the maximum amount of the benefit to which their dependents will be entitled by the terms of their certificates at the maturity of their claims."

—Some alterations by the new United Secretary of Treasury in the form of the statement of the public debt, result in representing the debt of that country as nearly a hundred millions greater than appeared in the previous arrangement of the accounts. By the addition of \$64,623,572, the amount of bonds issued to the Pacific railways, the interest-bearing debt at the close of March, which was placed at \$1,196,149,600 by the old form, is increased by Mr. Manning to \$1,260,773,112. It would appear that the liability in respect of these roads had not hitherto been considered in making up the debt statements. The amount of debt upon which interest has ceased since maturity is unchanged at \$4,951,505, but the debt bearing no interest, i.e. the legal-tender issue, gold and silver certificates, and certificates of deposit, is nominally reduced \$69,500,000 under the new arrangement. Instead of giving simply the lump sum, an analysis of the cash in the treasury is made by Mr. Manning, and it appears that out of a total of \$484,474,174 described as cash, only \$261,150,165 is available for the reduction of the debt, a reserve fund of \$100,000,000 is held for the redemption of United States legal tenders, and cannot be otherwise employed, and \$31,508,377 of fractional silver coin is also held which cannot be used to reduce the debt. The new form shows a slight increase of the gross debt on April 1st, the figure being \$1,885,988,376, and the net debt \$1,502,579,184.

—If sawdust can be used as fuel successfully—and it is done every day in saw-mills in the United States and Canada—there should be but little difficulty in using slack or pulverized coal on steam ships. A patent has been secured, it seems, by an Italian Engineer which may work "nothing short of a revolution in the steam coal trade." He claims to have solved a system by which small coal or "slack" may be exclusively used on board ocean-going steamers. The Societa Navigazione Generale Italiana thinks of applying the method to their fleet of steamers, which number over 100, and consume annually 150,000 tons of large steam coal.