

IMPORTANT

TO
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Machinery and Supplies.

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SEEDS! SEEDS!

SEEDS FRESH! SEEDS TRUE!

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Engines, Iron Bridges, Stoves,
Ship, Mill and General Castings.

MINING.

THE CRITIC has always advocated the formation of a Gold Mining Association in this Province, claiming that united action on the part of those interested in gold mining would secure needed legislation, and would also tend to promulgate useful information in regard to the wealth and extent of our gold fields. Those interested in the coal and iron industries of the Dominion have already discovered the benefits of united action, and have formed the Coal and Iron Association of Canada, representing a capital of over \$15,000,000, and having in their employ some 5,000 men. Nearly all the Coal and Iron Companies of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and the N. W. Territories, are members of the Association, and their representatives have lately been in Ottawa, pressing their views on the Dominion Government. Space forbids us to give all the arguments advanced, and we shall touch upon those only that apply directly to Nova Scotia. They first call attention to the fact that the late general elections prove that the people of Canada continue strongly in favor of the National Policy, and hope that the Government may see its way to carry out the spirit of the policy, and place our industries on a firm basis.

That the manufacture of iron in Canada has never yet succeeded, owing entirely to the lack of protection afforded to it, and it would seem advisable that the best means of encouraging this industry, should now receive the most careful consideration, and the subject be viewed in a broad and liberal minded manner.

That the abolition of the duty on scrap iron has materially injured the iron trade, and in some specialties has caused the closing of works which must remain idle till the tariff is changed.

They then in a series of statements, show the immense advantages of the iron industries in increasing the wealth of the country, and giving employment to labor. They show that since Confederation, two hundred and fifty millions of dollars would not cover the invoiced value of iron and steel and their manufactures, imported into the Dominion, and then prove the capabilities of the country to produce the best qualities of iron, in the manufacture of which thousands of our laborers would find employment, and our coal mines would be tested to their greatest capacity.

They then give a resume of the coal trade, showing that, notwithstanding the great increase of shipments, the business in Nova Scotia is, with one exception, in an unsatisfactory condition. That during the past ten years, an average of over three thousand seven hundred persons have annually been employed in the Nova Scotian collieries. During the same time, the pits have been idle for an average of one hundred and twenty working days in each year, representing a loss of several millions of working days in this period.

That with so many idle days, the men must, of necessity, obtain higher wages for the working days, the machinery and equipment for handling the output has to be large enough to do a year's business in six months' time, the mines have to be pumped and ventilated even when idle, and the fixed charges being the same, the cost of production is increased; accordingly, the mines are unproductive to their proprietors, the workmen and the country deriving comparatively little benefit from their operation.

That the output of the Nova Scotian collieries has now reached 1,358,000 tons per annum, and could be very largely increased without increasing the existing facilities.

That the maintenance of the present duty on coal is essential to the growth and development of the Nova Scotian collieries.

They then show the efforts made by the Americans to place soft coal in Ontario and Quebec, and that a new line of railway, which has just been completed, will give them facilities to compete with some show of success, with the coal shipments from Nova Scotia to Montreal.

This points to the necessity of Nova Scotia providing as large a home market as possible, and the establishment of iron works would prove a certain means of greatly increasing the output, and the cost of mining would enable our miners to successfully compete with the Americans.

That the subject of the royalties on coal and other minerals in Nova Scotia is well worthy of the attention of the Government. At present very grave fears exist that, owing to the exigencies of the Local Government, a considerable increase of royalties may be levied. This would be disastrous to the struggling coal industries.

That if arrangements could be made whereby the prospective royalties could be purchased by the Dominion Government, it would be a great relief to all interested. It is not with a view to the extinguishment of the royalties that such a suggestion is made, but rather to the security that would ensue from the fact, that in the hands of the General Government, due consideration would be given to the development of our natural resources, and no exigencies could arise by which the royalties would be increased.

We have often suggested the advisability of the Dominion Government taking over the mines and minerals of the Province, and allowing the Local Government a certain sum for them; but we fail to see the force of the argument advanced, that the royalties might be, or are likely to be, increased.

We advocate the transfer on the grounds that it would be beneficial to the Province, and that the Dominion Government would be in a better position to properly survey and map out the mining districts. There would also be less liability of local speculators and schemers being able to bring undue influence to bear on Government officials.

Let the gold miners profit by the example of the Coal and Iron Association, and organize as speedily as possible.

NEW BRUNSWICK MINING ITEMS.—Since my last, nothing new has arisen in mining matters, except the formation of a new development company in the northern part of the province, at or near Weldford Station on the I. C. Railway, to prospect and explore for coal. The presence of coal has been suspected for some time, as small seams and outcrops have been found from