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AND

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Chartered Accountants

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ESTABLISHED 1882.

HENDERSON, REID AND COMPANY

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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The annual report of the Department of Public Works and Mines of Nova Scotia for the year ended September 30th, 1917, shows a considerable falling off in the output of coal and a decided increase in the output of gold. In the coal industry the shortage of men in the collieries and inadequate means of transportation were acutely felt as compared with the previous year. The output of coal decreased by 692,811 tons, and the sales by 790,636 tons. The reductions were mostly in the shipments to Quebec and to the United States. There was a small increase in the amount sold within the province, and the quantity on hand at the end of 1917 is somewhat more than the amount held at the end of 1916. The total coal production was 5,803,660 tons, compared with 6,496,472 tons for the previous year. The falling off in the gold output is attributed to the great scarcity of, and the advance in the cost of, labor and materials. The gold pro-

duction for the year was 2,296 ounces, as compared with 4,963 ounces for the previous year, or less than one-half.

The production of gypsum, cement blocks, pig iron and steel ingots increased somewhat. A total revenue of \$740,687.28 from mining was derived by the province, most of which came from the royalty on coal and from rentals. A number of borings were made during the year by the government department, some of which were successful in reaching coal.

Drawings are included in the report regarding the production of coal in Nova Scotia during the past thirty years. These show that the number of men employed increased from a little over 4,000 in 1898 to over 12,000 in 1908. After a slight decline from 1908 to 1910, the number then increased to over 14,000, since when it has dropped to about 10,000. The variations in production follow approximately the same course, although there has been a gradual increase in the output in tons per man.