the Dominion Government by the president of the Dominion Coal Company, which is re-printed in full elsewhere in this issue of the Journal. The president of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company also has written to the Government protesting against any change in the coal duties, and he makes the very serious pronouncement that reciprocity in coal with the United States would mean "not only the closing of the coal mines, but the ruin of the steel industry."

These letters cover so completely and definitely the reasons against a change in the coal duties, that it is unnecessary to detail these reasons here. Both Mr. Plummer and Mr. Harris oppose strongly the main argument of those who favour free coal, which is that the removal of the duties would give to Nova Scotia the New England coal market. Mr. Plummer writes: "Notwithstanding our efforts to sell coal in New England, our shipments have been steadily decreasing, and, even with concessions in price equal to the amount of duty, we have recently found that we could not secure contracts." This is the experience of the Dominion Coal Company, and, if that corporation cannot sell coal in New England, it is certain that no other Nova Scotia coal company can hope to succeed.

There is also a national aspect in connection with reciprocal free trade in coal with the United States which has not as yet been greatly urged. Canada, in comparison with her great stretch of territory, is but poorly provided with coal seams. In modern times no country has achieved greatness that has not been well provided with coal. The United States, Great Britain, Germany, and France are the world powers of to-day, and they are also the four greatest coal producers. One of the best guarantees for the continued prosperity of great Britain is that new coal-fields are being discovered even in that old and travelled country. This insures her against a shortage of that fuel without which her factories would be idle and her ships rust in port. The United States produces over three hundred million tons of coal per annum, and one coal company in the Union alone has a yearly output three times larger than the entire coal production of Canada. Few countries have been so favoured with natural stores of coal as the United States; but, even there, the tremendous depletion of the coal-fields is being viewed with alarm, and the suggestion has even been made that an export duty should be imposed on coal sent out of the United States—a measure, by the way, which was long ago taken by the British Parliament.

In a recent publication of the Canadian Geological Survey it was stated that the main stores of Canadian coal were situated at a distance from the great centres of population. But some day the population will move to the coal-fields, and these, as in all other parts of the world, will become the foci of industry and the great producers of national wealth. If Canada desires to become a self-contained and completely autonomous nation and to hold her ground with the great nation to the south of us, she must develop and yet conserve her own national stores of coal. Glancing at the map of the United States, nothing would appear more natural than that Nova Scotia coal should supply New England and that Pennsylvania coal should supply the territory round the head waters of the St. Lawrence. But, for various reasons, sometimes referred to as history, Canada is politically detached from the United States, and, in national affairs, boundaries and frontiers oftentimes take precedence of natural facilities. Even supposing that under free trade in coal the Nova Scotian mines secured a market in the United States as great or greater than the one they now have, would it be for the ultimate benefit of Canada to exhaust the only coal-field she possesses between the Atlantic and Saskatchewan to supply the homes and factories of a rival nation?

QUEBEC.

Buckingham.—The Buckingham Graphite Company is now operating its mill to full capacity, 60 tons of ore per day, producing about 5 tons of all grades of flake graphite. A ready market is found for the whole output in the United States. The mining plant and the mill are modern in all respects. A considerable profit is already being made.

The property, covering 400 acres, is situated 7 miles due west of Buckingham. During the coming winter the mill will be enlarged to a daily capacity of 100 tons of ore.

The same syndicate that controls the Buckingham Graphite Company, also owns and controls about 12,000 acres in the Townships of Buckingham and Lochaber. At a point 3 miles west of Buckingham a new 200-ton mill is in course of erection. It is hoped that this mill will be completed by May 1st, 1911.

The products at present being turned out are as follows:—

	Per Cent.
Crucible graphite	93 to 95
Lubricating graphite	85 to 92
Stove polish, facing, etc.	70 to 80

These analyses indicate that the problem of separation has been solved. Everything about the re-organized venture is most encouraging. Much credit is due to Mr. H. P. H. Brumell, who has stuck to his guns through years of discouragement.

ONTARIO.

Cobalt, Nov. 7.—Within the past two weeks various strikes have been made or new developments have been made known that have changed the whole viewpoint of the Cobalt camp. The Lawson shows every evidence of coming back and several new leads have been struck on the Kerr Lake, which to all appearances, will for some time enable the Lewisohn Company to pay its ten per cent. per quarter.

The Northern Customs concentrator will add twenty stamps to their battery in order to handle the 50 tons per day of milling ore from the Cobalt Townsite. A year ago the Townsite appeared to be moribund; to-day it is shipping almost every week. A number of good surface finds have been made round the shaft near the Buffalo line and sufficient milling ore put in sight to make a year's contract with the Customs mill.

In a recently issued statement of the Trethewey Cobalt it is shown that the company had cash in the bank and due from smelters, $207,740.73, ore sacked at mine, $12,847, leaving $220,587 after providing for dividends and all expenses.

The long drawn out suits between the Crown Reserve Mining Company and W. J. Parker and A. G. Fowler Ross, members of the promoting syndicate, have been settled out of court.

In spite of the unfavourable interpretation given to the annual report by various interests, the Kerr Lake Mining Company has declared its usual dividend of 10 per cent. per quarter to be paid on Dec. 15.

The physical condition of the Kerr Lake mine has materially improved since the issuance of the annual report. From the No. 3 shaft in the diabase entirely new ground has been opened up at the fifth level and good high grade has been discovered. Under Kerr Lake to the east towards the Drummond six new leads have been cut, some of them carrying good ore. This is practically unexplored ground, as the company would not drift under water until they had attained considerable depth.

The Thelma Gold Mining Company has let a contract for the sinking of a shaft to the depth of 75 feet. Some spectacular gold has been taken from this claim, which is situated between Elk Lake and Earlton on the T. & N. O. Railway. The company is formed of Montreal merchants.

The Bailey Cobalt has run into a shoot of rich ore on the 232-foot level in the west drift. They are also mining from the Cobalt Central workings on the other side of the line in order to reach the Bailey vein at the fourth level. All the ore is being milled at the Central mill with, it is understood, good results. Four and a half tons of table concentrates have produced 1,645 pounds of jig concentrates and 94 pounds of bullion.