

province to good account must be a matter of surprise. Were it only a question of the cost of fuel, the gain to them would be immense. But there are other equally important considerations that should not be lost sight of. The supply of fuel necessary for an Atlantic voyage is so bulky that the space for freight is greatly diminished. Every ton of coal that can be spared represents a ton of freight that can be turned to account. It is manifest, therefore, that the double saving, both in the cost of fuel and in the available space for freight, will in time be inducements to utilize the coal supplies of Nova Scotia, and will lead the owners of French and German lines of steamships to possess their own collieries, and to ensure an ample supply at the lowest possible cost.

Until very recently the mines were held as a monopoly under a grant to the late Duke of York. An arrangement was effected a few years ago by the Provincial Government by which a considerable portion of the coal-mines of the province was transferred to them, and was thrown open to private enterprise. Unfortunately before much capital could be introduced into the country to develop these new mines, the American Government imposed a duty of \$1.25 per ton on imported coal, which acted as a damper on collieries that had been partially developed, and discouraged the formation of new companies. The pressure of the Free Trade party is yearly becoming more and more effective, and a few months, or a year at most, will see the obnoxious tax remitted. At present it is a grievous burthen on the people of the Atlantic seaboard, who are heavily taxed by the monopolies that are ruling the Republic with a rod of iron. This commercial oligarchy has none of that prestige that is connected with a landed aristocracy. The latter have a stake in the prosperity of their country, the former have no interest in the people, except so far as the ledger indicates their willingness and their ability to pay tribute to "the powers that be." The days of these gigantic monopolies are numbered in the United States, and when the burthens that are crushing manufactures and starving the consumer are thrown off, an enormous market will be