

salt, and then pumping the brine out. If this be true the opportunities of developing the salt industry in this province are considerable, and if the salt be mined,—and some samples I have seen are pure—it will afford facilities for opening up an industry of much importance, because the Maritime provinces alone consume enormous quantities of salt in connection with the fishing industry. But there is not only the evidence of salt but in combination with it, and perhaps of greater importance, is a by-product admittedly of great value at this time. One of the things disclosed by the analysis is that the salt is rich in potash. If we have in these salt deposits potash in addition, we have what prospectors and geologists would call a valuable “find.” I am assured by some of those who have made tests that there is potash and taking this assurance as correct, then we may boldly say we have a mineral which, if it can be economically operated, will be an asset of untold value to the province. Hitherto we have had to look to Germany as the chief market in which to secure potash. But Germany has been stripped of part of her potash territory. It follows therefore that if quantity and quality of this mineral can be assured to the province, that an industry will be established whose value cannot well be computed.

“ . . . I think the demand for our provincial industries will be great and there may be difficulty in meeting the demand for commercial coal. I may say that so far as the development of these new areas, salt and also shale, are concerned, the department has been disappointed. We had made arrangement with the mines department at Ottawa, by which we could have, during the next summer, some of their best research men to explore our oil shale fields, as well as coal. I intended to have done much during next summer. I am asking the Legislature for a reasonable appropriation for that purpose.”

(Here the Hon. Commissioner bewailed the fact that, due to small salaries, a number of the best men in the Mines Department at Ottawa had transferred their services elsewhere, and the Commissioner said he did not know if it would be possible to get men to fill their places. The Commissioner need not fret so far as coal, shale and even salt is concerned. What need have we of research men? We are finding coal where the so-called research men never hinted it might be found. As for shale it was no research man that pointed to the Stellar coal as suitable for the production of oil. It was no research man that told us where shales could be found, the shales told on themselves. What is wanted, above and before all, is a capable analyst. If the government had a real, competent chemist, whose services were at the disposal of the government solely for the people's good, then one might be willing to bet fifty to one that we would find out more about the minerals the province has, and has not, than had the province at its disposal any number of research men.)

“Coal and iron are the two commodities upon which the future of the province mainly depends. The success of these allied industries in the past has been gratifying, resulting in giving

to the whole province, more especially the Eastern part of it, a stimulus that might well be called phenomenal. One has but to glance at the rapid growth of coal sales to be convinced of this. Divided and scattered operations will not succeed. Whatever controversy there may have been over the matter I have always maintained, still maintain that one of the most defensible pieces of legislation ever enacted in the province, was that which consolidated the coal mines of Eastern Nova Scotia and led to a wonderful development of the industrial life of the country. Exception may be taken, but the history of the coal and steel industries shows that unless you have consolidation and the scattered operations united, you do not have success, and while I have no defense for close corporations and monopolies, I maintain that having a plentiful supply of coal, and leasing the coal areas with proper conditions attached, we have under our control and subject to our regulations a great industry which must mean much to the province if we are conservative as to legislation, and see that any consolidation is properly safeguarded. The increases in coal sales during the several decades since 1880 show a remarkable growth, and I do not think this satisfactory condition of affairs would have arisen but for the consolidation I have referred to. I say the tables show a remarkable growth in the coal sales and I do not think any other condition of affairs would have brought that about other than the consolidation spoken of. I say economically and nationally consolidation may be the best way, the only solution of many of our weaknesses, so far as industrial development along scientific and economic lines is concerned. Expansion stands out prominent in the history of the past score or more of years, and I predict we will maintain the past ratio of expansion up till 1921 so that the history of thirty years will be ample justification in pointing to consolidation of interests as having been highly beneficial and I insist that it cannot help being so, as far as the future development of our mineral resources is concerned. Last year we were not optimistic as to production during 1919, while at this time we are most optimistic, as to the possibilities for the future, and I look together with the other officers of the Department, to have six million tons of an output in 1920. The coal trade today is in a more favorable condition than it has been for some time. There are many indications to justify this belief. The coal trade of the world today is demoralized and there is a great demand for coal by foreign nations. The demand for export is so great that it becomes a serious question how far the domestic supply can be maintained. . . . The time may come when exportation of Nova Scotia coal to foreign countries may have to be prohibited. From a conversation I held with a large coal operator that impression has been forced upon me. Another thing that inclines me to be optimistic is that the steel trade is reviving. All over the country wherever steel industries are dependent on coal these are over run with orders. This can only mean one thing, and that, that a very active demand for our coal—which is an excellent steel coal—must ensue. If the steel shipbuilding which has been start-