

after all would that mean? Simply, that any coal sent to Portland for, say, the Grand Trunk, would mean an equivalent less quantity sent to the St. Lawrence. Certain in Ontario exclaim:—"Free access of N. S. coal into the U. S., for free access of N. S. coal into Ontario. What can be fairer? Nova Scotia gets a quid pro quo". Oh, no. The Americans would get the 'quid'—vulgarly speaking—the thing having substance, while Nova Scotia would get the 'quo' the shadowy 'what'.

The American sellers, especially when conjoined with Ontario dealers, are adepts at 'catching on.' They caught on in the case of Anthracite, and also in that of 'dust'. Experience makes perfect and bold. In the nineties the duty on slack was ad valorem. In 1892 they paid a duty of $9\frac{1}{4}$: in '93 $8\frac{1}{4}$ cents. but having got wisdom they had by '95 whittled it down to $5\frac{1}{4}$ cents, and goodness knows where they would have stopped had not the Finance Minister also caught on and made the duty specific.