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steamers of the North Pacific which link together Chins, Japan and British North America, the great city of San Francisco, the rival armaments of the Pacific, and, in short, practically every grate, furuace or stove which has proved the advantages of true over the inferior brown or lignite coal of the western Americans. The "find" of the Scotch engineer Dunsmuir, of the vast basins of coal on the east shores of the island of Vancouver, is an instance of what the home collieries have done in training men for the colonial coalfield, and the eye that detected patches or "crops" of coal in the surface rocke around Nanaimo Herbor late one Saturday evening in the autumn of 1869, undoubtedly—as has been admitted—owed its penetrative skill to long years of patient training in the schools and pits of North Britain. Claims were immediately staked off, and the adventurous Scot started the neucleus

of what are now the Wellington collieries.

In considering the British Columbian collieries it is necessary, as hinted above, to consider them in their relation to a "sphere of influence," radius of which embraces the Orient and Pacific states, down to the Californian Gulf. The coal for export is shipped from Nanaimo, Departure Bay and Comex, principally to San Francisco and other ports in California; Aleska (U. S. A.); the Hawaiian Islands, China and Japan per the steam-ships of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The progress of the industry under these, added to the home markets, is seen by reference to the following comparative table :-

Output Tons. Export Tons. 1888 489,300 365,714 1889..... 579,830 443,675 678,141 508,270 1890..... 1891..... 1,029,097 806,479

Home consumption -1887, 99,000; 1891, 202,697,

It is important to note that the industries are by no means exempt from competition in the principal foreign markets of California, and in order that this may be clearly understood I introduce the competitors, with the precise volume of competition, to consideration :-

Imports of Foreign Coal into California.

Tone.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Australasia 271,612	408,000	153,920	275,490
England and Wales 126 167	32 890	53,374	200,777
Scotland 10,680	12,727	1,490	34,225
Eastern States, per rail and water 30,118	18 950	32,701	42 237
Puget Sound	372,514	450,762	393,163
Coos Boy and Mount Diable 81.194	87,600	74 210	90,684
Japan 13,808	1,340	13,250	20 506
Cannel Bay —		·	1,200
Alaska —	_		150
British Columbia345 681	417,904	350,388	517,477
Other imports	11,805	123 312	160 820

Total..........1,659,806 1,363,762 1,253,407 1,736,729

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These figures indicate that the the Australasian competition does not seriously increase in volume. The explanation of this, in part, is that the physical economy and geographical positions of the Australian coalfields negatives, and always will negative, any very sturdy attempts at exportation on a large scale. In other words, the Australian coal can scarcely be handled profitably outside a given parallel of latitude, of which California is the approximate northern limit. To a certain extent this applies to Australian grain, and a good deal of misconception and financial loss may be obviated by adapting Antipodean enterprise to these natural intercommercial laws. The position of Great Britain as a competitor to the British Pacific provinces is hardly more favorable. As tha figures to ch, the volume of British exports to California cannot exceed much more than a quarter of a million tons. This is because coal will not repay the long voyage into the North Pacific, and the only reason that any British coal is sent into California at all is the comparatively lucrative return freights that the large crafts employed in the Entopean "Frisco" trade are able to obtain. As far as the exports from Eastern North America are concerned, it will be observed that the Vancouver collieries do not suffer any competition therefrom worth particular reference. It appears to consist chiefly of authraci'e from, say Pennsylvania, but in view of the activity of the Canadian anthracite mines east of the Rocky mountains, very little time will elapse before this competition is so weakened as to be of no importance whatever. Two other interesting competitors of the British mines are Japan and Alaska; the latter is, of course, of no more importance than as a sign of the times, indicating the spread of activity of reces towards the Arctic circle in preference to the unexploited and genial provinces of South America, the former offering some increased evidence of the self reliance of the Asiatics, who bave driven Great Britain and Ameria s'ep by step out of the Japanese Archipelago. But in spite of these competitors the Vancouver inines rule the markets. The mines are being worked with vigor and unprecedented energy, with immense capital, and although ather serious differences disturb the harmonious relations of masters and men-to an extent, it should be explained, that does not provail in the Atlantic coaffields—the collieries of the North Pacific, without any stretch of imagination, must be termed great in the higher sense. The great impediment of the complete monopoly of the Pacific merkets, which is the cone and aim of the Vancouver operators, is the absence of ficcal reciprocal relations between America and Canada. Your readers will recollect that this is also the explanation of the fact that to-day Nova Scotia is shot out of the 1,000,000 tons market of the New Realand States and the new fine tendence of the New York and States and the new fine tendence of the New York and States and the new fine tendence of the New York and the new fine tendence of the New York and States and the new York and the new York and the new York and the new York and Table 1998. England States, and the policy of injurious tariffs on such produce as can be exchanged is thus called in question. When once the duty on Canadian