

areas held by one lessee, and do not include the idle pits and unworked seams held by other lessees.

Let the questions be made general and apply to all Lessees under Government throughout the Province, and the impossibility of compliance by the Lessees with any Government order for compulsory working will at once be apparent.

For a full understanding of the points raised the Report itself must be consulted with the Questions put before the House in 1895 and the answers that emanated from the Mines Department at that time.

With regard to "pillar" working, and the Commission's views, it has to be remembered no clause in the lease or in the law requires a lessee to work pillars as is done in Pictou and ~~Cape Breton~~ *Cumberland* counties, and that probably thousands of acres of pillars remain untouched in Cape Breton without complaint or inquiry.

CONCLUSION:—From the foregoing quotations, extracts from letters and notes it will be apparent that in matters of fact the Report is not reliable and therefore that the inferences drawn and suggestions made are necessarily in such cases faulty.

A careful reading shows it in other parts to be contradictory and to include irrelevant matter.

The so-called "evidence" is untrustworthy, and was met by no cross examination. Neither was opportunity offered to put in rebuttal testimony on the findings of the commission; nor was the Inspector's personal knowledge of the subject incorporated: It appears that inconsiderate haste was shown in rushing into print the undigested evidence procured under doubtful authority, and distributing the report to the public without the authority of the House of Assembly, to which it is by title ostensibly submitted.

The report further appears to reflect on a Lessee that earnestly endeavored to again bring into use abandoned mines although the head of the Commission offered in his position as Inspector no advice or went near the work while in progress.