III.—THE UNDEVELOPED COAL FIELDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.—BY E. GILPIN, JR., LL. D., F. R. S. C., INSPECTOR OF MINES.

(Read 10th February, 1896.)

The question of the possible discovery of new coal fields in this province is interesting from both a scientific and a practical standpoint. At present the growth of our coal industry is measured by the home demand. The Maritime Provinces take an amount which is steadily, if not rapidly, increasing, as new manufactures are started and firewood becomes scarcer. The Newfoundland demand will not, so far as can be seen, increase rapidly, and moreover, competition is threatened by the island deposits. The trade of the St. Lawrence appears at present practically secured to Nova Scotia, and will grow proportionately to the development of that important section of the Dominion. Ottawa and Montreal appear to mark the western limit of the trade. The inauguration of any policy by which our coals can be pushed further westward against the competition of United States coals rests with the deepening of the canals and the assistance of the Federal Government.

If an outlet be obtained in the New England States the development would grow apace.

We have the subject presented from a practical standpoint. What are the possible reserves beyond those deposits now being worked? While the present mines can be extended in the worked and adjoining seams to meet a demand many times larger than the present, the enquiry is still pertinent. If there is an assurance that outside of the present development there are other tracts that may be drawn upon when needed, the confidence and credit of the province are increased. The assurance of unlimited supplies of fuel, even though we sigh now for larger markets, advertises us abroad and encourages capital to examine our resources of other minerals, and generally to consider more favorably our aspirations for investments of capital.

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