

a coal dealer of Toronto, placing the freight at 70 cents during the summer. The price of coal then was \$6.50, in Toronto. During the present month the price of coal, in Toronto, was advertised at \$6.50, by P. Burns, a leading coal dealer. At that price, with winter rates of freight, coal is, obtained by consumers at 50 cents less than the consumers of Buffalo pay for it. At Chicago, coal retails at from \$8 to \$8.50, or an average of \$8.25. The rail freight from Buffalo is \$2; the difference in freight is 70 cents in favor of Toronto. If Toronto paid as much as Chicago it ought to pay \$8.25 minus 70 cents, or \$7.55; if the duty is added to the cost to the consumer, Toronto, to have its coal at the same proportionate rate as Chicago, would have to pay \$7.55 and duty 50 cents, or \$8.05. It actually pays \$6.50 to \$7. At Detroit coal sells at retail for \$6.25; freight from Buffalo 50 cents. The price at Toronto is \$6.50, with freight \$1, ought to be \$6.70, to be proportionately as dear as Detroit. In further proof that the duty is not paid by the people of Ontario see following table of the retail prices in Toronto at the several dates mentioned:—

	Hard Coal.	Soft Coal.
Oct 24, 1872	\$7.00.....	\$8.00
“ 23, 1873.....	7.50.....	7.00
“ 22, 1874.....	7.75.....	7.00
“ 30, 1875	7.00.....	5.75
“ 25, 1881.....	6.50.....	5.50

In 1881, with the duty of 50 cents in operation, the cost at Toronto of hard coal was \$6.50, and soft coal \$5.50, the lowest price at which this table shows it to have been purchased since 1872.

Mr. MACKENZIE. What was it in 1880?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. This table does not give it.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Then it is a very convenient table.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am taking the figures in this table from the prices furnished by the *Toronto Globe*—a table which shows that in no year between 1872 and 1875 inclusive, when there was no duty on coal, was coal as cheap in Toronto as it has been in 1881, with the duty fully established; so that the hon. gentleman will have to work at that table a good deal before he will be able to invalidate the conclusive argument which I have adduced therefrom—that the imposition of the duty on coal has been in favor of the Ontario consumer, so far as the price of coal is concerned. The *Philadelphia Ledger*, in December, said:

“Coal demand has been in excess of the ability of the companies to furnish it. It is really just cause for apprehension for the future, should the trouble of want of water or other causes continue to limit production.”