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CIRCULATION.

During the year ending with March 1st, 1908, 91,750 copies of THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL were printed and distributed, or an average of 3,822 per issue.

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NOVA SCOTIA'S MINERAL OUTPUT.

The official returns of Nova Scotia's mineral output, given in full on another page of this issue, appeared early in March. The report of the Mines Department will be given fuller notice at a later date. Meanwhile it is timely to notice again the causes that led to the serious decrease in the output of coal. Whilst the Picton and Inverness collieries increased their annual production by substantial amounts, the Springhill strike almost counterbalanced this gain.

In Cape Breton, owing to the Hub colliery fire, and the unusually late opening of the shipping season, the production was cut down by the serious amount of 175,191 tons.

However, this diminution of output must be looked upon as purely fortuitous. It is hardly probable that the opening of navigation will be delayed again to such an extent as it was last spring. It is also to be hoped that labor troubles will become things of the past. The settlement effects between the Dominion Coal Company and its employees is a guarantee of peace so far as Nova Scotia's largest coal producer is concerned. Hence we may look forward with well-founded hope to a shipping season of unexampled activity.

The Provincial authorities had estimated that they would receive for the past year \$725,000 in coal royalties. Events proved that this estimate, for the reasons adduced above, was excessive. In fact the actual amount received was \$633,933, or \$10,000 less than the revenue for 1906.

It is true, however, that the same causes that, had conditions been normal, would have brought about a large increase of tonnage last year, will again be operative this year. The St. Lawrence trade undoubtedly will be brisker during the approaching season. The local demand is growing heavier and the coast trade with the United States increases yearly. With an open spring and industrial peace Nova Scotia should therefore count upon a larger coal output this summer than in any preceding year.

Incidentally we notice in the Provincial Financial Returns the item of \$14,851.17 for miners' relief funds. We mention this because it is our intention to discuss this item fully at a later date.

The tabulated statistics for the year ending September 30th, 1907, include several items, such as antimony ore, cement, bricks, copper, building stone, etc., not before specified in the annual returns.