

syndicate of capitalists in the New England States, with a view to developing a large export of coal to Boston, etc., shows that outside attention is being drawn to the mineral resources, and it is believed that this is but the commencement of a large and wide-spread interest in the capabilities of Nova Scotia.

The coal, gold, copper, lead and silver ores are all held by the crown, and can be leased on easy terms. Part of the iron ore is held in fee simple by the owners of the soil, and part belongs to the crown. Licenses to search, covering five square miles, and running for eighteen months, can be procured for \$30, and a lease of the mineral sought can be selected out of the license. The leases are of various sizes up to one square mile in extent. The gold and silver leases are for forty years, those of other minerals are for eighty years. These leases carry powers to expropriate any surface lands needed for mining purposes, and are unusually favorable. The royalties are on coal ten cents a ton, on gold two per cent on the bullion, valued at \$18.50 an ounce. The iron ore royalty is five cents a ton, and so on.

The advantages of these titles, proceeding directly from the government, are evident, and have been much appreciated by mining people, who find that they are met in coming to Nova Scotia, not by grasping private individuals, but by a Government anxious to promote the development of mining.