

lucrative possibilities may entice some of the Quebec legislators into adopting the profession of mining informers, in which case they will perhaps do less harm than by enacting such pernicious laws.

Finally, our objections may be summed up in a query that comes to us from London, "What is the Quebec Government trying to do? Does it want to kill the mining industry?"

Nova Scotia Coal Trade, 1890.

Complete returns of the Nova Scotia Coal trade for the year 1890, have not yet come to hand. Enough, however, is known to allow it to be said that the increase over previous years is satisfactory. The Cape Breton Collieries nearly all increased their output, the Sydney colliery, of the General Mining Association, standing at the head with a total sales of 152,681 tons. Generally speaking there was a want of coal cutters and this was specially felt in the early part of the fall. The mines are preparing for a brisk season's work next year, levels and slopes are being driven in advance, and it is expected that coal will soon be dug and banked out in readiness for the shipping season. The Gardiner Colliery at Bridgeport, which has been closed for about ten years, is being refitted and will be added to the list of producers next season. It is reported that it will be equipped for an average daily output of about 300 tons. The Sydney and Louisburg Coal Company will increase their facilities for cutting and raising coal at their Emery Colliery which was re-opened last year, and by the spring should be able to raise at least 400 tons a day from it. In Pictou County the introduction of the Longwall system at the Vale Colliery will allow an increased output. The work of opening the Albion Main Seam by the Acadia Coal Company is proceeding favourably and will present many new features of interest. Stanley coal heading and coal cutting machinery are being introduced. The coal from this seam yields an admirable coke, and fifty new ovens are being built close to the Foord

pit, and so arranged that the waste gases will heat the pump and winding engine boilers. The Intercolonial Company are enlarging their works on the second seam. At Springhill the usual sinking and preliminary work is going on, and generally speaking the mines are in a position to meet any ordinary increase in business.

So far as can be learned the results of the year's work have been fairly satisfactory. The prices that have ruled are not in all cases precisely ascertainable. It is understood that the prices for Cape Breton coals have varied at Montreal from \$2.90 to \$3.15 a ton, and that at the same point Pictou coals were sold in the vicinity of \$3.60. Little Springhill coal is sold in Montreal. The price delivered at Springhill Junction is said to have been \$2.50.

It is worthy of note that there is a strong competition at Montreal and Quebec among the coal brokers representing the various mining companies, which tends to lower prices. It is a matter of frequent remark that, if the Cape Breton coal companies were to pool their coal or employ only one seller, they could readily realize 25 cents a ton more on their sales in Quebec and Montreal. This would, beside adding to their profits, allow a slight increase in wages to their employees. In this connection it may be stated that at present enquiries are being made with a view to effecting a combination of the collieries at present operating in Cape Breton. By reducing the expenses of management, offices, haulage, etc., there is no doubt that these companies when amalgamated should yield to both owners and employees far more satisfactory results than have yet been possible.

The operations of the past year have been carried on without any noteworthy accidents. A number of miners have been injured by falls of roof, etc., but in many cases their own negligence has contributed to the accident. The more gaseous mines have been worked with caution, and in many cases the use of powder has been discontinued. The most noteworthy incident connected with the coal trade during the past season was the ten weeks' strike at the

Springhill Collieries. This strike was fought with firmness on both sides, but the men gave little cause for uneasiness to those holding property in the town. The ends obtained by the men as conceded by the company were calculated to remove friction in the future, but it is reported that much of the feeling expended on the strike has been directed against the more systematic and economical management that was being inaugurated. The deplorable waste of time and money should prove a warning to the men. They had an excellent Provincial Arbitration Act to which they could have appealed—an Act which very decidedly invited their invocation as its clauses all favored the workmen. In future it is to be hoped that both masters and men will avail themselves of the advantages of arbitration.

There has been a slight increase in the amount of coal shipped to the United States during the past year, principally for gas purposes, owing to a deficiency in the home supplies for that purpose. The suggestion has been made that the Provincial Government should appoint a commission to look into the question if reciprocity in coal would benefit the Nova Scotia coal mines. Numerous references are made to New England manufacturers, etc., who are in favor of reciprocity. These people have everything to gain by reciprocity, as it means cheaper coal to them. But on the other hand it is not yet clear to our miners that they will be able to meet the American shippers who no doubt will meet them with a fierce competition, and at the same time maintain their St. Lawrence trade against the English coal that would come in free of duty as ballast.

The local outlook however, is reassuring. The demand for domestic purposes is steadily increasing. The increase of the bunker and steamer business forms an important item. The Londonderry furnaces are increasing their demand for coal, and the projected iron works in Pictou County seem now fairly launched, so that next summer they should make heavy demands upon the local collieries.

Imports of Coal by Water at the Ports of Montreal, Sorel, Three Rivers and Quebec for the Years 1889 and 1890.

(Authentic figures compiled for THE REVIEW.)

	MONTREAL.		SOREL.		THREE RIVERS.		QUEBEC.		TOTALS.		REMARKS.
	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	1889.	1890.	
CAPE BRETON COLLIERIES.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
"International".....	82,879	89,138	.....	1,400	.....	.....	3,841	2,871	86,720	93,409	Increase over 1889 6,689
General Mining Association.....	45,297	42,365	8,404	9,000	1,300	10,046	21,828	24,636	76,829	86,047	do 1889 9,219
Sydney & Louisburg Coal & Ry. Co.....	48,915	62,798	3,900	14,800	.....	.....	5,759	8,094	58,574	85,692	do 1889 27,118
"Caledonia".....	33,454	70,187	9,910	10,800	3,000	1,690	10,077	3,259	56,441	85,936	do 1889 29,495
"Glace Bay".....	33,380	51,000	4,819	3,680	2,240	.....	.....	1,634	40,439	56,314	do 1889 15,875
"Gowrie".....	32,106	45,339	7,372	3,540	.....	.....	550	4,000	40,028	52,879	do 1889 12,851
"Bridgeport".....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,941	.....	9,941	do 1889 9,941
	276,031	360,827	34,405	43,220	6,540	11,736	42,055	54,435	359,031	470,218	do 1889 111,187
PICOU COUNTY COLLIERIES.											
"Intercolonial".....	35,452	45,857	9,200	7,100	.....	.....	.....	.....	44,652	52,957	do 1889 8,305
"Vale" and "Acadia".....	1,213	6,316	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,213	6,316	do 1889 5,103
Total Lower Port Coal by Steamers.....	312,696	413,000	43,605	50,320	6,540	11,736	42,055	54,435	404,896	529,491	do 1889 124,595
Total importations from Great Britain.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62,629	16,974	Decrease over 1889 45,655
Grand totals.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	467,525	546,465	Increase over 1889 78,940