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MINING.

COAL TRADE PROSPECTS.—Early in the season the generally expressed opinion was that the market for coal this season would be exceptionally brisk. The elections intervening somewhat disturbed the prospect, and though the election smoke has in a manner lifted, there is still a haze remaining. Manufacturers are still, to a certain extent, undecided. At any rate, they are in no great hurry to place their orders. Enough, however, 18 now known to warrant the belief that the trade will be fully as good as last year, especially the Quebec trade. The prices realized for C. B. coals are a trifle better than last year, but still nothing to brag about. The C. B. coals are a trifle better than last year, but still nothing to brag about. The C. B. operators' first care evidently is to sell a large quantity, price being a secondary consideration. This may not be altogether a commendable prectice, but it has the merit of being popular. Freights seemingly are a good deal casior, but as a good deal depends upon the class of boats chartered, it may not be prudent to assert that the decline is so great as those not a quainted with the trade might be led to assume. The sales of C B. coals to date are largely in excess of sales to same date last year, while the sales of Pictou coals are very much less. The cheaper rate at which C. B. coals are sold accounts for this. The G. T. R. took last year 12,500 tons of Pictou coal, while this year they take 40,000 from Cape Breton, and none from Pictou. The C. P. R. takes only 5,000 tons from Pictou, against 10,000 tons last year. The rolling mills, however, still favor Pictou coal and will likely purchase largely. So far as we have been able to learn, the following orders have been placed :-

International, Glace Bay and Old Bridgeport (same agents) General Mining Association	90,000 60,000
C-ledonia	55.000
Reserve	45.000
G-wrie	45,000
Cape Breton 2	95,000
International, Pictou	26,000
Total 3	321.000
Same time last year 2	21,000

THE GARDNER MINE -This mine, which has been idle for a number of years, is about ready to start operations. Late last fall a new company took hold of the property. The mine was full of water, and it was surmised that the underground workings would be in a more or less shattered condithat the underground workings would by in a more or less shattered condition. However, the company were bound to make a spoon or spoil a horn, and set to work in light good earnest. Mr. J. T. Burchell, who had previous experience at the Ontario mine, superintended operations, and that he pushed things forward with a will is evidenced by the fact that the pit is so far free of water, and been put in such ship-shape condition, that hoisting coal for the market will begin this week. The coal will be banked. All the coal used for raising steam at the works has been taken from the pit for some time back. We have in a previous article referred to the high character of the coal. It is a first class article suited for steam or domestic purposes On the north side of the pit the seam is four feet thick, and on the south four feet eight. It is possible the long wall system of working may be adopted. So far, that system has proved an unqualified success at the Jeggins Mines, Cumberland Co. More coal can be cut per man per day, and there is much less waste. A ready market should readily be had for all the product of the Gardner, which we make no doubt will ere long take a leading place among the Cape Breton collieries. A pump, which was submerged in the mine from the time it was abandoned, years ago, is now doing good work pumping the water. We wish the company the success they deserve, and think they have been fortunate in securing the services of so painstaking, pushing and yet prudent a superintendent as Mr. J. T. Burchell.—The Stellarton Journal.

Notice is given that application will be made to parliament for an act to incorporate "the Montreal coal and elevating company," for the purpose of creeting wharves, warehouses and elevators at certain ports of the Dominion for unloading and warehousing coal.

Work has been resumed on the "Crow's Nest" It is not yet known if the company will continue to drive the tunnel. There is nearly three feet of crushing stuff in the east end of the tunnel. The mill was dismantled about two years ago, but the company are going to put it in working order again. There is a large quantity of ore on dock, and should it prove sufficiently rich the company intend to build a larger mill.

There is nothing new in the Sherbrooke district. Prospecting will commerce as soon as the frost is out of the ground. A small amount of crushing was done during the month of March, and the results were rather better than usual.

It is always a good time to look for a revival of speculation when you find the mining markets looming up. Within the past day or two the tickers have been ticking out quotations at a lively pace. The papers are already beginning to tell of the chances for making fortunes by dealing in mining stocks. Wall street is all but ready to doff its sackcloth and askes. The gay spring attire is at hand. In a few days life may be worth living. -New York Exchange.

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