

Canadian market as far west as they have ready access for the taking of their coals. They do not propose to increase the price of coal. But they do propose that, if possible, the people of Canada who consume their coal shall pay a fair price for it, so that they shall not only be able to mine large quantities of coal, but to mine large quantities of coal at a profit. That the price of coal will be increased in any part of North America as the result of Mr. Whitney's operations is too preposterous for discussion. The mines which Mr. Whitney has acquired had an output last year of between 800,000 and 900,000 tons. It is likely that Mr. Whitney this year will be able to secure an output of a million or more tons, and in subsequent years, as he gets the equipments better furnished, this output may be expected to increase to the extent of two or three millions of tons a year, a large part of which will likely be marketed in the New England States.

Such in brief are the incidents of the recent coal legislation in Nova Scotia which has attracted widespread, I may almost say absurd, attention. Because the Legislature of Nova Scotia has changed two or three clauses in the coal lease, some people whose sanity may well be questioned have reached the conclusion that the British Empire is in danger. Because Mr. VanHorne is a large consumer of coal, and it was deemed desirable by Mr. Whitney to obtain his patronage as far as possible for coal supply for the use of the Canadian Pacific Railway, he is made a member of the Board of Directors, and hysterical persons have seen a diabolical plot to absorb the coal supply of eastern North America. But, whatever terrible things are possible under the Whitney lease which the Legislature of Nova Scotia has just granted, let it be distinctly understood that ten times far more heinous things are possible in respect of all the other leases which are not touched by the recent legislation of Nova

Scotia; therefore, any person who charges that the Government of Nova Scotia has lent its sanction to monopolies and combines is simply grossly ignorant of the circumstances, or has not given the matter a moment's consideration. The terms of the lease which Mr. Whitney has taken are not in any sense more favorable to combines than the terms of the leases which have been granted for 35 years, and which are available for any person. There is nothing to prevent any large coal-mining corporation in Nova Scotia availing itself of the terms of Mr. Whitney's lease, but depend upon it, not one of them will pay $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents additional royalty for any advantages which Mr. Whitney's two or three amendments afford. Monopolies can only be created in a country by tariff duties against the rest of the world. Make coal free and it is impossible for Mr. Whitney or any other person to create a coal monopoly in Canada.

For years past the people of Nova Scotia have been exceedingly desirous of having their coal and other mines properly developed by outside capital. Mr. Whitney's enterprise gives promise of splendid results in this regard. Already coal properties which had practically no value have assumed not only a commercial, but an actual value. Money will be plentifully distributed in the county of Cape Breton, where the operations are to be carried on. Improved methods will be introduced, and a general boom take place in coal-mining. Other mines will no doubt be stimulated, and it is not at all unlikely that other large capitalists will seek to acquire and open up the splendid coal areas now unworked situate at Brown Cove, Inverness County. It also happens, as I have mentioned, that Nova Scotia, is rich in iron. Mr. Gilpin, D.C.L., Inspector of Mines for Nova Scotia, has given it as his opinion that there is more iron ore in Nova Scotia than there is coal to smelt it. I hear at this moment of capitalists who are seeking to acquire large iron