

sion, but for the purpose of stating what is matter of history. Down to a comparatively recent date, nobody in Nova Scotia doubted that what we required to promote the growth of our coal mining industry was access to the markets of the United States. During the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty between the British Provinces and the United States, while business generally was improved, the increase of the coal business was particularly gratifying, and, naturally, men have looked to the bringing about of similar conditions to produce similar results. One of the arguments most strongly used by those who advocated the adoption of what is called the National Policy, and which had much weight in the minds of those who in this Province were influenced to support that measure, was that, through the adoption of the National Policy, we were to obtain reciprocity with the United States. And while reciprocity with the United States was deemed desirable in many interests, it was deemed particularly desirable in relation to the item of coal. I remember of reading a speech of Sir Charles Tupper, delivered at Sydney, Cape Breton, in the election campaign of 1878. Sir Charles knew that there he was speaking in the midst of this great mineral wealth, and he declared that what Cape Breton most needed was access to the American market. Even though Americans should sell their coal in Ontario and Quebec, he declared that what nature intended was that the miners of Cape Breton should sell their coal in the New England market; and he told his hearers that when we had the American market again, as we would have it through the instrumentality of his policy, then would Sydney and Cape Breton flourish as never before. While some men have changed their views, I for one have never been willing to give up that bright hope. I have been clinging to the idea that at some time we would realize the brilliant picture which Sir Charles Tupper and his friends presented, that by the shipment of large quantities of coal to the United States we would add to the prosperity of the country. Sir Charles Tupper said further that we would not only ship these large quantities of coal to the United States, but that the home consumption would be greatly increased by the production of large quantities of iron, which would also add to the prosperity of the country. We have been clinging to the idea that at some time we would again obtain access to the American market.