

NOVA SCOTIA.

Export of Timber.

1845	..	..	..	24,000,000 and upwards.
1846	..	..	..	23,000,000 "
1847	..	..	..	17,000,000 "

But it will be recollected that the canals in Canada affording passage for a larger class of boats were not opened till last year, and, therefore, that the exports for future years will exceed those above stated.

From these statistics it may be gathered how far the probable returns will justify the Legislature of the three provinces to embark in it, as a paying or remunerating speculation. No work of such magnitude can be begun without some risk of failure; but it can be said that it offers every reasonable prospect of success, and all we can do is to exercise a sound discretion. With the aids and guarantees suggested, the most prudent financier would not hesitate to go on.

But there are other reasons equally potent, which ought to induce the Imperial Government and the Legislature to co-operate in having it speedily accomplished.

Nothing can be added to what has already been written relative to the effect which it is likely to exercise in binding the colonies together, in diminishing the danger of invasion, and adding to our political safety without and within.

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for the last three years have been visited with a blight, which has diminished their crops fully one-half. The losses by the farming classes in the former are moderately estimated at two and a-half millions; this being the surplus produce of the soil which supplied the main elements of trade. The British West Indian Islands, formerly a secure market for fish, have been opened to foreign competition, and have been reduced by the introduction of free trade, and foreign sugars at reduced duties into the British markets, to a state of bankruptcy and ruin. This main branch of our trade has become profitless. Our vast mineral resources are held in the hands of monopolists; and with natural resources far superior to any State of New England, it is in vain to deny the fact that we are retrograding. Capitalists are withdrawing their funds and making foreign investments; the young enterprising men of our country are leaving it to push their fortunes in the more favoured lands of the south; the value of real estate is lessening; rents are falling, and numerous houses in Halifax are empty; trade languishes; our revenue is diminishing, the sources of professional income are cramped, and a gloom is gathering over the public mind. In Nova Scotia we want physical development,—we want fresh sources of employment for our industry,—we require the principles of free trade to be carried further,—we want the control of our minerals,—we want, in short, the railroad, easy and more frequent intercourse with the broad country in the rear, and a free trade with the United States for our fish and the boundless fields of coal and iron which we possess, and we only, on the Atlantic side of the Alleghanies. The whole market of the Atlantic States for bituminous coal is open to us, if our beds were made free to competition.

The table beneath gives an estimate of the extent and condition of the coal trade in the United States.

The Anthracite coal trade from the different regions of the State of Pennsylvania gives the following returns:—

In 1820	..	..	..	365 tons were sent to market.
1830	..	..	..	174,754 "
1840	..	..	..	845,414 "
1845	..	..	..	2,021,474 "
1847	..	..	..	2,982,309 "
1848	..	..	..	3,089,238 "

Gross Importations of Foreign Coal in the United States

		Tons.		Dollars.
1845	..	85,771	..	224,483 official value.
1846	..	156,833	..	378,597 "
1847	..	148,021	..	370,985 "

Of these 1-25th part was re-exported.

The duties on coals imported to the United States were—

From 1825 to 1842	..	..	6 cents per bushel.
1842 to 1847	..	..	1 dollar 75 cents per ton,
1847	..	..	30 per cent. ad valorem.

It is of vast importance to Nova Scotia that these duties should be modified as soon as possible, "because the use of anthracite for all domestic purposes will become so firmly established on the seaboard, that no other quality will find admittance into their houses." To show the effect of this exclusion, I refer to the following Table of the comparative business in coal at Boston for the years 1840 and 1847:—

		Tons in 1840.		Tons in 1847.
Pennsylvania anthracite received	..	73,847	..	258,093
American bituminous coal	..	3,299	..	4,554
Foreign	..	49,997	..	65,203