

which are not imposed on any mining company in Nova Scotia, and when it is known that he is a gentleman of great enterprise, zeal and integrity, it should not be needful for me to discuss the matter further, believing as I do that the measure will commend itself to the judgment of the people.

ADVANTAGES OF CAPE BRETON MINES.

But why should Mr. Whitney's company want to shut the mines of Cape Breton county? There is no place on the continent of America where coal can be put on ship board at tide water so cheaply as it can in Cape Breton county. There may be one or two points in the United States where mines are so favorably situated that they can raise coal cheaper than we can, but when you remember that the mines in the United States are in most cases inland, and that they have a long haul before they reach tide water, it will be evident that the county of Cape Breton has special advantages in that respect. Why then should Mr. Whitney's company want to shut up these mines in the county of Cape Breton? I want the House to consider the vast amount of coal used in the United States. The amount we use here in Nova Scotia is small in comparison. I do not see how it could pay any company carrying on operations here to shut down the mines in the county of Cape Breton; but if that possibility exists it cannot operate as a criticism of the measure before the House, but rather as a criticism of the present condition of our mining laws. We have no mining law to-day in Nova Scotia that will compel any company to take out a fixed quantity of coal.

There is one point that Mr. Whitney very properly stipulated for when we proposed to impose the penalty I have referred to, in order to prevent the shutting up of the mines in the county of Cape Breton. He said he was willing to agree to the imposition of that penalty on condition that it should not apply to the closing up of the mines from unavoidable circumstances, such as an explosion or accident. We therefore agreed to insert a condition in the lease giving him the right of arbitration in such cases and providing that if he could satisfy the arbitrators appointed under the laws of Nova Scotia that his mines were not producing the full quantity of coal produced in 1891, in consequence of circumstances which were beyond the control of the company, we should not enforce the penalty against them.

Mr. Cahan asked if the Whitney company had organized