

the lesser also, and was to the effect that it would be disastrous. Mr. Duggan testified on this point as follows:—

"The St. Lawrence is only open to us against American competition by reason of the high heating value of our coal, the long rail haul from the United States Mines, and the protective duty now imposed by the Dominion Government. The margin is an extremely narrow one. Increased cost of production to us; a lower rail rate from the American mines, or a reduction in the duty would practically hand the market over to the Americans. A large tonnage is being supplied by the American companies this year (1908). The English companies are also dangerous competitors. Foreign competition is being felt in our business at all ports."

Professor Magill, Chairman of the Royal Commission on an 8 hour day, a man whose hesitancy in expressing an opinion, from straight evidence, is, at times, very exasperating, in referring, in his report to the government, to the increase in importations of late years, of American Coal says:—

"The importance of these figures is evident. They mean that the competition of American with Nova Scotian coal was and is real, and the only question is whether this competition is going to continue. . . . It may be held that coal mining in the United States is so much less expensive than in Nova Scotia; that in spite of the disadvantage of transportation and tariff, the American coal can successfully compete with the Nova Scotian.

. . . If this be correct the outlook of the coal industry in Nova Scotia is not too bright. . . . The view has been expressed that the importation of American coal is not real, at all events, not serious, and that it is only advanced as an argument against free trade, or foreign organizations. A contrary view has been expressed by some of the men, that it is serious and should be met by an increase in the tariff. Those argue that Ontario and