

SUDBURY AND TORONTO.

The new Canadian Pacific direct line from Toronto to Sudbury reduces the time of that journey by eight hours. Sudbury is thus brought substantially closer to the metropolis of Ontario. The handling of freight from and to an important mining and railway centre is the keynote of development. The new line will increase materially both freight and passenger traffic facilities.

We do not doubt that an impetus will be given to the opening up of the known copper deposits of the Sudbury region. Present freight rates are by no means at an irreducible minimum. In operation the direct route may reduce competitive reduction of tariffs.

Incidentally Sudbury will acquire added importance as a shipping and distributing point.

A NEW MARKET FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA COAL.

The establishment of a large coaling station on the Pacific coast of Mexico is announced. Manganillo harbor has been chosen as the site. If all goes well it is expected that the improved facilities to be provided at this port will encourage the exportation of British Columbia coal from the coast collieries.

It may be justly remarked that one of the first needs of Vancouver and Victoria and the coast generally is cheaper coal. The prices at which the fuel is sold in these cities are unnecessarily high.

THE MINING OPERATIONS OF THE DOMINION COAL COMPANY.

The Mines of the Glace Bay Basin.

(Article II. by F. W. Gray.)

The Glace Bay Basin has been much more extensively worked than any other portion of the Sydney coalfield, although as may be seen from an examination of the following comparative chart of outputs, it was the last of the basins to be systematically opened up. As will be seen from the chart the output curves of the four basins ran almost together during the first two decades of coal mining in Cape Breton, and it was not until the early 'eighties' that the production of the Glace Bay Basin began to sensibly exceed that of the other sections of the Sydney coalfield.

From 1880 to 1893 the outputs increased steadily. In 1893 the Dominion Coal Company commenced operations, and from that time on the outputs have increased by leaps and bounds.

The following table gives the outputs of each basin of the Sydney coalfield from 1893 to 1907, arranged in two periods of twenty-five years, showing how remarkable has been the development of the coal mining industry during the quarter of a century just passed compared with that which immediately preceded it.

| | Production from 1858 to 1882. | Production from 1883 to 1907. |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sydney Mines Basin | 2,636,000 | 6,963,000 |
| Lingan Victoria Basin | 842,000 | 1,175,000 |
| Morien Basin | 1,779,000 | 1,850,000 |
| Glace Bay | 2,596,000 | 35,900,000 |
| | <u>7,853,000</u> | <u>45,888,000</u> |

During the fifteen years that have elapsed since the formation of the Dominion Coal Company, they have produced from their mines, in the Glace Bay Basin, only, a little over 32,000,000 tons of coal, to which the

various seams have contributed in approximately the following proportions:

| | Per cent. |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Gardiner seam | 30,000 . . |
| Emery seam | 260,000 1 |
| Hub seam | 800,000 2½ |
| Harbour seam | 4,510,000 14 |
| Phalen seam | 26,400,000 82½ |
| Total | <u>32,000,000 100</u> |

The basin, or to use a more exact simile, the "saucer like" formation of this field is very marked, and the crops of the coal seams have been bared by the scour of the ice-age, so that, owing to the even flatness of the surface, and the regular pitch and consistent parallelism of the coal seams, they appear on the map in strikingly symmetrical concentric form.

There is a complete absence of faulting or dislocation of the strata in this field, although there are occasional undulations or "swillies," and local changes in the thickness of the seams, such as are to be met with in all coal deposits.

In the earlier days of coal mining in the Glace Bay district the seams appear to have been attacked from the outcrops in a happy-go-lucky and haphazard manner, without much regard for the future. No barriers, or very inadequate ones, were left along the crops to protect the lower and later workings, while the pillars left in the first operation were too small, the consequence being that much coal has been lost by creeps and crushes in addition to which the surface water has found its way through the many openings in the outcrops, leaving a legacy of pumping cost to the present generation. The measures in this district are "short" and brittle, and where the cover is light they will