

here, by previous witnesses, that the natural market for Nova Scotia coal is the New England States; but so far as I can see, we have no particular natural market. England sends coal all over the world, and wherever there is a demand, and we can get vessels for, is our natural market. I have been engaged in the trade for eight years, and I should say that Montreal and Quebec are as convenient markets for us as the United States.

Q. Would the securing of the Canadian markets benefit the coal owners and trade generally?—Yes.

Q. How?—It would give our coal producers the supplying of the Canadian markets; and would also give the Canadian producers the supplying of the Maritime Provinces. I might state that, last year the Maritime Provinces, inclusive of Newfoundland, imported 463,586 barrels of flour and 9,254,273 pounds of meat from the United States.

Q. In what year was the coal trade most prosperous?—In 1873.

Q. How many tons was produced that year?—1,051,467 tons.

Q. How many men were employed?—5,000 men and boys, representing a population of 30,000.

Q. How many days' work did they do in the aggregate?—955,722 days' work.

Q. How many vessels were there employed in carrying the coal, and what was their tonnage?—3,604 vessels, of which 428 were steamers, representing a gross tonnage of 820,144 tons.

Q. How many seamen did they employ?—About 22,000.

Q. What amount of capital was there in circulation, directly and indirectly caused by the coal production?—The best estimate I can get places the amount at \$4,913,381.

Q. How do you propose to send coal to Ontario?—By securing the markets of the Maritime Provinces for Ontario products, and the Ontario markets for our coal we now import largely from the United States; last year our imports from the United States aggregated \$7,622,712.

Q. Those products, you say, could be largely obtained from Old Canada if an interchange could be made between them and Nova Scotia coal?—Yes, very largely; I find that the coal imports into Canada are estimated at \$3,220,300.

Q. How are the Nova Scotia coal mines situated with regard to supplying the Canadian market?—Very conveniently. We are half-way between the grain-producing centres of the West, and the market of the Old World—halfway between Chicago and Liverpool. The lake vessels might terminate their voyage at Sydney,