

Nova Scotia, which, taken with its other sources of revenue, will be ample for its administration of Provincial affairs. At all events, it is not likely that it will ever be desirable to impose a heavier tax than $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents per ton on the coal industry. When it is considered that Mr. Whitney has acquired nearly all the coal that he has purchased in Cape Breton at a cent or less per ton, it will be recognized that $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents per ton constitutes a pretty fair royalty, and ought to be as much as the exigencies of the case require.

One other change in the Whitney lease is certainly of the greatest possible importance to the Province, and it is the first safeguard that we have had against an unlawful combination to close the mines. In 1889, on it being found that there were a great number of unworked areas in the Province from which no revenue whatever was being derived, an Act was passed providing that in the case of unworked areas already under lease, a rental per square mile of \$30 per annum should be imposed, and in case of leases hereafter to be granted, a rental of \$50 per annum should be charged as long as the areas were unworked, and it was likewise provided that any existing leaseholder might change his then lease in order to obtain another, with the condition that as long as the rental was paid the leases should be non-forfeitable. That is the law in Nova Scotia to-day, and if Mr. Henry M. Whitney had any dark scheme for closing the coal mines of Nova Scotia he certainly would not have come to the Government for amendments in the lease, but would have purchased all the mines now outstanding, closed them, and paid into the revenue a rental of \$30 per square mile. That is what he can do under the existing leases now granted by the Government of Nova Scotia, and which have been granted for the past 35 years. But as a condition of giving him a lease with a permanent rental for a

long period of years, the Government enacted that Mr. Whitney and his company must pay, whether a mine was worked or not, a royalty equal to $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents a ton upon the total output for the highest year (1891), so that if he should close the mines that he has already acquired in Cape Breton, next year he would still have to pay into the revenue of Nova Scotia a sum equal to about \$123,000, and so on forever during the pendency of his lease. The non-payment of this sum would cause the forfeiture of the mines. At a period of time when all sorts of puerile rubbish are being talked about a huge monopoly being created and a diabolical scheme to close the coal mines of Nova Scotia, it is to be noted with interest that the lease which has just been granted to Mr. Whitney contains the first substantial provision against the closing of the mines which has ever been imposed upon the coal-mining industry of Nova Scotia. While the Government and people of Nova Scotia feel safe and comfortable in respect of all the mines that Mr. Whitney has acquired and will hold under the new lease, there is still room for anxiety in respect of the other coal mines in the Counties of Cape Breton, Cumberland and Pictou, which Mr. Whitney and his associates do not touch.

Mr. Whitney and his associates, half of whom are wealthy and eminently respectable Canadians, have acquired about nine collieries in the County of Cape Breton. Under the terms of their leases they are confined entirely to operations in the County of Cape Breton and are not at liberty to meddle with mines outside of that county. Their purpose is not to enter into any combines with Philadelphia people to injure any portion of the people of this country. Their object is to compete with the Pennsylvania mines to the great advantage of the people, and especially the manufacturing interests, of New England, as well as themselves. They expect also to command the