

returned on the outlay. Even then, it was uphill work for a long time to secure a favourable footing for this ore in foreign markets. The English iron masters would not touch it, and the Americans had such an abundant supply of their own that they did not want it. But the energy and perseverance of the Nova Scotia Steel Co. overcame all obstacles and now the ore finds favour everywhere.

The whole question of the World's future coal supply is engaging the serious attention of scientists. The enormous rate of consumption of this absolutely necessary fuel in the World's industrial advancement is causing its diminution at so rapid a rate that fears are being entertained that the visible supply will not hold out to any lengthened period.

Acting upon this impression, a meeting is to be held in Toronto during the coming summer, of the International Geological Congress, to consider the matter fully. Persons from every country containing coal, or who know anything about their coal resources, have been invited to visit the Congress and read or furnish papers, setting forth as fully as possible what their country's coal prospects are.

I have received an invitation amongst others, either to attend in person or furnish a paper on our Newfoundland Coal areas, etc., and have already complied by forwarding the fullest information in my possession. Should I not be able to attend in person, this paper will be read before the Congress and incorporated in the publication of the proceedings later. It is to be hoped that it may have the effect of drawing attention as fully to this country's coal resources, as a previous one on our iron ore resources read at a Congress, held in Stockholm two years ago, had.

As regards the importance of
our coal deposits, I shall quote here a few notes from two of the highest scientific authorities.

Some years ago I had quite a correspondence with the late Sir Wm. Dawson, Principal of McGill University, a great authority on Carboniferous geology, to whom I had submitted all my facts relative to our coal fields. He wrote me as follows: "Your Government might make a point as to the west shore, by informing the English Government of the value of the coals on the west coast and their prospective importance to Britain and Newfoundland, as well as to the other colonies. **You have the nearest coal to England on this side of the Atlantic.**"

This was before the settlement of the French Shore question.

In 1896, Sir Herbert Murray, the then Governor, who took a deep interest in this question, asked me for a report upon our coal fields, which was forwarded to the Imperial Government and submitted by the Colonial Office to the eminent head of the English Geological Survey, Sir Archibald Geikie. After studying all the facts contained therein, Sir Archibald in replying to Mr. Chamberlain, the then Secretary for the Colonies, said, amongst other things: "There can be no doubt that the development of these coal fields will be of the utmost importance in the progress of the Colony."

Upon the development of the Coal fields all the other mineral industries will largely depend.

It may prove interesting to give here a few notes of comparison between the Sydney, C.B., coal fields, and those of Newfoundland.

According to Mr. Richard Brown, F.G.S., who made an exhaustive study of the Cape Breton Coal Fields, the result of which was published in 1871.