

increase in the production, it is not unnatural that many should think the industry has been a flourishing one.

COMPARISONS WITH SOME AMERICAN STATES.

But we should pay some attention to what has been done in other places, and, for a moment, I would like to compare the progress made in the Province of Nova Scotia with the progress made in one or two of the states of the neighboring republic. In Nova Scotia in 1875 we produced 706,795 tons of coal. In 1890, 15 years later, we produced 1,786,111 tons. That is an increase of two and a half times in the quantity of coal produced. Many may think that very gratifying and satisfactory. But if we turn to the State of Indiana we find that the production of that state during the same period increased from 800,000 tons to 3,305,737 tons. That is to say, while our production multiplied two and a half times, that of the State of Indiana multiplied four times. Let us take another comparison. In 1873 the mines of Nova Scotia produced 811,806 tons; in 1890 the production was 1,786,111 tons. That is to say, we had a little more than doubled the output in the Province of Nova Scotia during that period, from 1873 down to 1890. But during the same period the State of West Virginia increased her production from 672,000 tons to 7,266,494 tons. While we about doubled our output, the output of West Virginia multiplied more than ten times. Again, take the State of Kentucky, and we find that in the same period that we doubled our output the output of that state multiplied nine times. So that while we might, by glancing merely at our own progress, feel that we were doing very well, a glance at what is being done in the world around us leads to the belief that we should have made a measure of progress much greater than our records show, and more approaching that of the coal mining states of the neighboring republic. We have thought, in view of the progress made in the United States, that, under fair conditions, our Province should do better than it has done, and we have from time to time aimed at devising some method by which we could accomplish something like the great results attained in the states to which I have referred.

THE UNITED STATES MARKET.

There is one feature of the coal question which has been to some extent a matter of political contention. I shall refer briefly to that aspect of the question, not for the purpose of arousing party discus-