

certain conditions to \$1 per acre from the price, in case the purchasers choose to effect a so-called settlement within each Township, but without any provision as to the acreage to be given, or the interest to be secured to each so-called settler.

That these regulations are calculated injuriously to affect the future of the country by facilitating the creation of large landed estates, by placing extended areas of the choicest lands in the hands of speculators, who have favorable opportunities of securing them in anticipation of the settler, and who may hold them for a large advance to be paid by the ultimate settler, whereby the country will gain nothing in price and will lose through the diminished ability of the settler to contribute to the public revenues.

That in the opinion of this House our aim should be to people the agricultural regions of the North West with independent freeholders, each cultivating his own farm, and paying therefor no more than the public treasury receives; and that, save in the case of town plots; or other exceptional cases, the sale of North West agricultural lands should as a rule be made to actual settlers only, on reasonable conditions of settlement, and in quantities limited to the area which can be reasonably occupied by a settler.

The motion was lost on a strict party vote. Yeas, 47; Nays, 112.

THE DUTIES ON COAL.

A tax that has utterly failed of its object—An unjust burden on the few

The duties on coal are a leading feature of the so-called National Policy. They were imposed with the view of giving to Nova Scotia miners the markets of Ontario and Quebec—of keeping American coal out of the Dominion, and securing Canada for the Canadians. At first a uniform duty of fifty cents per ton was placed on hard and soft coal, although none of the former is found in Canada; afterwards

the duty on soft coal was increased to sixty cents per ton. The tax has been paid all right enough; it has gone into the public treasury, and helped to make the boasted four millions of surplus. But has the object of the Government been realized? Has it given to Nova Scotia miners the markets of Ontario and Quebec, or shut American coal out of the Dominion? A short and simple statement of facts will show that it has not.

THE SOLID FACTS.

In 1877-8, the last full year before the tax was imposed, there were imported into Ontario from the United States 588,412 tons of hard and soft coal. In 1880-1, with the tax imposed, there were imported 810,970 tons. Instead, therefore, of American coal being shut out and Nova Scotia coal getting the market, the supply of American coal has been increased by 222,558 tons, and the Ontario consumers are made to pay an extra tax of \$400,000.

Another fact is supplied by a return presented this year to the House of Commons, showing the quantity of coal carried from Nova Scotia ports through the St. Lawrence Canals and St. Ann's Lock on the Ottawa. Through the former in 1877-8 it was 36,626 tons, and in 1880-1 it was 31,402 tons. During the latter in 1877-8 it was 52,644 tons, and in 1880-1 it was 49,037 tons. In 1878 the total was 87,270 tons, and in 1880-1 it was only 80,439 tons.

WHY THE DUTIES HAVE FAILED OF THEIR OBJECT.

These facts show conclusively that the coal duties have failed of their object. The Nova Scotia miners have not got, and cannot hope to get, the home markets that the Government promised them. And the reason is obvious: They are one thousand miles further away from the Ontario markets than their Pennsylvania rivals.

From New Glasgow in Nova Scotia to Toronto is 1,153 miles—660 miles over the Intercolonial and 498 over the Grand Trunk. By a special arrangement made with the Government the Grand Trunk carries coal by the car load from Chaudiere Junction to Toronto at the very low rate of \$1.76 per ton, or