

CONDENSED HISTORY OF COAL MINING IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The first official record of coal sales in Nova Scotia dates from the year 1785, when the total sales were 1,668 tons. The yearly output steadily increased, until in 1850 the sales reached a total of 180,084 tons. From that date until 1886 the sales in the United States, (coal then being on the free list,) were very large, amounting in 1865 to 465,194 tons. In 1867 the United States imposed a duty of \$1.25 per ton on imported coal, since which time the coal sales to that country have been much smaller, amounting in 1887 to 73,892 tons. The imposition of this duty had a bad effect on the coal trade of Nova Scotia, but the output steadily increased, as will be seen on reference to the tables below, which are taken from the official reports.

In 1879 the Dominion Government adopted the "National Policy," and imposed a duty of 75 cts. on coal imported into the Dominion.

This duty gave new life to the coal mining industry and secured the Quebec market, which before had obtained its coal supplies principally from the United States.

The sales in 1879, the first year of the imposition of the duty, amounted to 688,628 tons, while in 1887 the total output was 1,519,684 tons, showing