

36,228 tons anthracite and 2,441 bituminous. The whole export of anthracite is only about 35,000 tons in excess of what is sent to the Dominion of Canada, and we take considerably more than one half of the bituminous.

The total quantity of coal raised in Nova Scotia in 1880 was 1,032,710, and the sales were 954,659, a considerable increase on 1879, in which year only 788,000 tons were produced. Of the sales 352,913 tons were consumed in Nova Scotia, 97,817 in New Brunswick, 69,626 in Newfoundland, and 46,767 in Prince Edward Island. The United States took 123,423, the West Indies 12,165, and Europe 12,857 tons. The aggregate of the exports to countries which are not forced to use Nova Scotia coal by protective duties is 715,568 tons out of a total product of 954,659 tons. The quantity sent to Quebec and Ontario is 239,091 tons.

We have given above the exports of bituminous coal to Canada in the year ending 30th June 1880 at 130,000 tons. Our Canadian trade returns for that year give the imports into Ontario alone at 331,370 tons, the duty on which was \$175,880. In the year ending 30th June, 1881, the imports of anthracite were 572,092 tons, duty \$286,047, and of bituminous 457,595 tons, duty \$274,557. The country is taxed about \$560,000 chiefly for anthracite which we do not produce, and partly to enable Nova Scotia colliers to send some 240,000 tons of coal to Quebec. The competition of Nova Scotia in the Province of Quebec for the supply of coal is not with the United States but with Great Britain. The United States is sending increased quantities from Ohio to Ontario, and there is no probability that Nova Scotia coal will be consumed to any appreciable extent in that Province. While the coal imports are increasing from the United States they are decreasing from Great Britain, and Scotch coal can hardly be procured in Montreal. This is caused partly by the high freights which have prevailed; but the duty, of course, operates to check importation. We recently observed that Mr. Henry Lyman, himself a protectionist and a supporter of the present Government, had publicly condemned the coal duty.

The author of the review gives a statement of the trade in Montreal, and ascribes the increased coal consumption there to the improvement in business generally. We observe that the wages paid for mining the Pittsburgh coal were considerably higher in 1880 than in 1878 and 1879, but still much less than in 1871-2-3, in which last year they had attained their maximum.

The price has not gone up much beyond the mining wages, which are about one-half the average charges. The output of coal in the United States was largely increased in 1880, but it was chiefly in bituminous. The prices of anthracite were far better than in the previous year, but the output not so great. The output of bituminous was very large and the prices good. The information furnished in the coal trade review deserves impartial consideration, and we are greatly mistaken if it leads to the conclusion that the coal tax should be maintained. It is an extraordinary fact that last year Nova Scotia imported more bituminous coal from the United States than the Province of Quebec.

#### PRUDENCE IN TRADE.

We have reason to believe that the opinion that there is need for great caution on the part of the importers and wholesale dealers is by no means confined to the bankers, but that it prevails to a great extent among the most prudent of our merchants. It has been alleged that a considerable number of new retail shops have been opened in this city by persons possessed of very inadequate means, who with capital averaging little over \$500 each have obtained goods valued at more than twenty times that amount. It may be hoped that such statements are exaggerated, but there can be no doubt that there is a tendency to take advantage of the period of prosperity that has been so much vaunted during the election contest. Now that the end has been served, it may be hoped that there will be no further encouragement given to rash speculation.

Among other misleading statements efforts have been made to create a belief that goods generally are even cheaper than they were three years ago. It is not improbable that in certain exceptional cases this may be true, but it is quite impossible that, as regards commodities generally, prices can be as low as they were in 1879. We know that the duties upon nearly all articles have been increased, but it is not on that alone that we rest. We called attention recently to an article in the last number of the journal of the Royal Statistical Society, entitled "The World's Progress in Trade and Industry," but we directed attention more particularly to the great inflation which preceded and led to the depression than to the subsequent revival of trade. We shall now give a brief extract from that paper which has a more direct reference to the advance in the price of commodities: "The twenty-two goods categories

"of the *Economist* which we mentioned above ascended from their lowest index number in 1879, viz., 2225 in one year to 2577, an increase of about 16 per cent. Heavy goods, such as wool, cotton yarn, twist and manufactures, experienced during the course of 1880 a still greater enhancement of prices." The same writer states that fully ten millions sterling more was put by for wages and profits in 1880 than in 1879, and adds that he has abundant information from America respecting the increase of wages in agricultural, mining and other industrial enterprises, and these clearly show the improvement which has already taken place in the industrial condition."

A few more facts may be mentioned which are confirmatory of the above. There was an increase in the import of raw cotton in England from £36,180,548 in 1879 to £42,772,088 in 1880; in wool from £23,564,064 to £26,375,407; in wood and timber from £10,750,502 to £16,726,809. These are all raw materials, while in tea, sugar, and corn and flour, the advance is comparatively small. The foregoing six leading articles are nearly one-half of the total imports of Great Britain. The exports of cotton manufactures increased by about twelve millions sterling, of iron and steel nine millions, machinery two millions, woollens and coal each about a million. It is not unworthy of notice that the same parties who declare that the price of commodities has fallen since 1879 affirm that there has been an increase in the wages of the operatives, and it is notorious that the manufacturers, far from complaining of the prices which they receive, acknowledge that the various industries are flourishing. This is certainly inconsistent with the pretension that the price of goods was higher in a time of depression throughout the entire world.

We are far from taking a desponding view of our position in Canada. There is no indication of the extraordinary inflation that prevailed at the commencement of the last decade, and if the country should be favored with an average crop it may be hoped that there will be no early depression. It is, however, most desirable that all tendency to undue expansion should be checked, and it should be borne in mind that the warnings which have been so judiciously given by our leading bankers are in strict accordance with what we have learned from other sources. For instance the *Statist*, edited by Mr. Giffen, concludes its annual review thus:—"The result is that although the prospect for trade remains not unsatisfactory at the beginning of 1882, yet as the conditions of high rates for money and of an un-