

is more trade and possibly a little more energy in the sales department. The resources of their property are almost boundless, they have at enormous expense equipped and developed their mines until they are able to place in the market double the quantity shipped this season, manifestly they are carrying a lot of dead weight, unless they are able to greatly increase their sales. As far as we can judge it is not possible materially to do so in Canada or Newfoundland. They must therefore look to the foreign market. They should be able to increase their tonnage to the Eastern States if well represented, especially now that Pennsylvania and other American bituminous coal is rising in price. They may also hope towards the end of 1897 to begin to reap a portion of the harvest expected from Mr. Whitney's gas scheme. There are again the South American and West Indian markets yet untouched and a share of these could be secured at remunerative rates. The result of the Presidential election in the States does not encourage any expectations of "free coal" there—or even a reduction in the duty, and under these circumstances it is not likely that our own tariff will be interfered with beyond equalizing it with that of the States by reducing it from 60 to 40 cents. Sellers of coal, therefore, know pretty well what conditions they have to contend with in the near future and whilst an increased trade is more than ever a necessity for large concerns it is certain that nothing short of the most energetic and enlightened enterprise will secure this.

At Old Sydney Mines work has continued steadily to date and so brisk has been the demand during the fall that since the stock of banked coal was exhausted at the end of September the mine has been running "double shift." By the end of the year it is expected that 230,000 tons will have been shipped, and altogether the old mine will have had one of the best seasons on record. We understand that it is intended during the winter months to make extensive alterations in the system of haulage, and also to increase the speed of the hoisting with a view to a larger output next year. Messrs. Matheson & Co., of New Glasgow, have put in a pair of Lancashire boilers capable of working at 100 lbs. pressure by means of which the steam plant will be greatly improved. In consequence of the extensive area of the old workings and the presence of dust it has been decided by the management to discontinue the use of the naked lights after this season and to work exclusively with safety lamps. This will considerably increase the cost, but we are pleased to recognize the fact that this "ancient and honourable Company" regard safety as the first consideration.

Those of our readers who read the paper published in our last issue from the pen of Mr. Wm. Blakemore, the Mining Engineer of the Dominion Coal Co., on "The Economic Value of Coal Dust" will be interested in knowing that considerable progress has been made by that company on the lines indicated. At several of the mines coal dust is already being used to generate steam by the aid of the "Argand" blower, and although better results would have been achieved with a higher class apparatus, it has been clearly demonstrated that the experiment is a success, and in all likelihood next season will find the company using this fuel exclusively. In order to utilize the same product a large coal washing plant capable of washing 600 tons daily is being erected between Glace Bay and Louisburg under the superintendence of Dr. Slocum of Pittsburg. This is expected to be ready for work next month and will supply fuel for coking. In the first instance at the works of the "Light and Heat" Company, Halifax, and later in the States. The Company has also commenced the manufacture of briquettes and expect to have a large sale for these, as their qualities become more widely known. They have been used in the Company's own locomotives and have yielded better results than either coal or coke. We consider this one of the most important industries in Canada and one which should be encouraged in every possible way. The sale of briquettes is enormous even in markets within easy reach of Cape Breton. During September more than 15,000 tons were exported from Swansea and Cardiff to South America and the West Indies, and in Austria where this is a comparatively new industry over 125,000 tons were made last year.

The paper by Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn, C.M.G., to be read before the Canadian Mining Institute on a comparison of gold quartz mining in Canada and Victoria, Australia, will lend special interest to our gold miners and create a valuable discussion.

Dominion Coal Co.

OUTPUT AND SHIPMENTS JANUARY 1st, TO OCTOBER 31st, 1896.

	Largest Day's Output 1896.	OUTPUT.	SHIPMENTS.
Caledonia	1,615	1,032,448	948,820
Dominion	1,259		
Victoria	631		
Gowrie	543		
Hub	892		
International	1,137		
Old Bridgeport	1,207		
Reserve	1,794		
	9,178		

In Pictou County the Acadia trade has fallen off, partly due to general depression, partly to competition with water borne coal at Halifax the barge system facilitating Cape Breton trade. Probable output in 1896 is 190,000 tons. Operations have been of the usual character, and no new machinery has been set up.

At the Drummond colliery it is estimated that the total sales for the year 1896 will fall short by some 18,000 tons those of 1895. This falling off is by water. The railway sales show an increase of some 22½ per cent. over those of 1895. During the year the improved shaker screen, picking belt and tippler, have been duplicated, and the cost of labor generally reduced on the bankhead. The screens can now easily handle 1,000 tons in 9 hours, the coal classified and thoroughly cleaned of all refuse. Egg coal and nut are made a specialty at this mine and are finding a steadily increasing trade. A new lift has been opened up at a depth of 4,658 feet on the incline, the coal being of excellent quality. The work of opening up is fully two years ahead of requirements. The rolling stock has been increased by 50, I. C. R. pattern, 6-ton hopper cars, constructed by Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co. of Amherst. The mining, hoisting and transportation equipment is now most complete and, with coal so superior and so readily accessible, the colliery is in splendid position for transacting an extensive business.

In Cumberland County the output from Springhill will be about 410,000 tons, the sales up to 1st November, being 297,000 tons, an increase of 38,000 tons over last year. No returns from the Joggins and the Cape Breton Colliery have been received.

The Iron Ore Trade of the United States.

The report of Mr. John Birkinbine on the Iron Ore Trade of the United States in the year 1895, recently published, is of interest to the Canadian producer, to whom it points very clearly to the conclusion that the prospect of exporting this mineral to the American market becomes more and more remote. In the first place this appears from the fact that the production of the New York mines is very similar in character to our own, the bulk of the output being the magnetic ores of the Adirondack range. In 1889, New York was but a short way behind Alabama and Pennsylvania as a producer. In 1895 its output had fallen to 307,000 tons from 1,247,000 tons in 1889. With the extension of steel manufacture the growing importance of Bessemer ores renders magnetic ore less desirable, and accordingly we find that while it counted for 17·26 per cent. of the ore used in 1889, its use had fallen to 7·95 per cent. of the ore used in 1895. Mr. Birkinbine says:—"While pure magnetite may contain more iron than pure red hematite and while there is some of the former of most excellent quality most of the deposits of magnetic iron ore wrought in this country are comparatively lean, or if rich in iron, carry phosphorous, sulphur or titanium in excess of what is now considered desirable." It is therefore not to be wondered at that out of a total consumption in 1895, of nearly six-