

mand upon their employers for the redress of a large number of grievances, among which are mentioned the "pluck-me" system, which forces the miners to trade at the company's stores or be discharged; the light-weight practice, by which the miners say they are cheated out of a quarter of what they really earn, and the pooling of operators to keep the price of coal up and the wages down. "The miners will also demand shorter hours and better pay, and after they shall have become well organized as a District Assembly of the Knights of Labor a general strike will ensue unless their grievances are righted and their demands granted."

#### THE COAL TRADE.

Anthracite is quoted dull at New York, fairly active in Philadelphia, and moving off in small lots at all the Western points. The tonnage is such as to prove the wisdom of the guiding hands, and there is no particular shrinkage in value on anything except Stove size. This week will be a light one, so far as tonnage is concerned, for the quotas are about all in, and there will be an opportunity to reduce the pile of certain sizes; the Broken and Egg still hold firm, and the Pea coal goes off at somewhat reduced rates, while Stove drags at the Eastward. There is nothing in the condition of affairs to offer any cause for alarm as to the future of the Anthracite trade, for after the summer dullness, we expect to see a very active condition of affairs. No labor troubles of any moment are noted at present, nor are they looked for in the near future. Anthracite shipments last week were 592,016, and for this year 11,651,237 tons, as compared with 601,258 tons and 9,907,997 tons as a total to an even period last season; the surplus this year may fairly be said to have "gone into consumption" for the supplies visible are no larger than a year ago.

Bituminous is quiet, but the outlook is now for a better supply to all the eastern coast, for the Georges Creek district has resumed, and rates are quotable at \$2.25 at Baltimore, \$3.25 at New York and \$3.50 at Boston. New River still out, but will no doubt soon be at work. It is expected that the men in the Clearfield will be generally at work before this day week—at the old rate of forty cents per ton, but with some few abatements of other differences, and a further conference is to be held on the 29th inst. Railroad shipments from the Pittsburgh district have increased somewhat of late. At the lake ports, the constant report is of very low quotations for coal with active competition.—*Coal Trade Journal*.

#### TEXTILES IN BRITAIN.

LEEDS, May 14th.—WOOLLENS.—Specialties for the autumn and winter seasons are improving in demand. Finest worsteds are coming into foremost position again, and this without lowering of prices. The prices of choice fancy woollens in quiet colors are steadily maintained. Some of the plainer makes of high-class mantle cloths are moving into brisk rivalry with the famous curls, knobs and other extreme fancies. Novelties in the softer kinds of costume cloths are much preferred. Heavy overcoating manufacture is dull. No shipping orders for them are coming in, except that Canada is taking a few patterns. Indigo serges of substance are selling freely.

HUDDERSFIELD.—WOOLLENS.—Business confined mainly to orders to manufacturers, purchases for stock having been limited in amount. There is rather more employment in the district, though the general trade still moves quietly, and several leading manufacturers, of the best worsted goods are running their machinery overtime. Coatings and trouserings selling largely for both home and export trade.

LEICESTER, 15th.—YARNS AND HOSIERY.—The

yarn market is steady, and spinners are booking more contracts both for home and export at rather better prices, although the margin of profit is exceedingly narrow on account of the severity of the competition. The hosiery trade is active, and large contracts have been placed on account of the marked preference which is being shown for English fabrics over those purchased in Germany.

DUNDEE.—LINENS.—There is no new feature in connection with the linen trade. Manufacturers are complaining of the want of demand, especially from the home trade. But still stocks are kept in moderate compass. Jute goods are quiet. Hessians are extremely low in price, but notwithstanding buyers are keen to operate in anticipation of the future.

NOTTINGHAM, 15th.—LACES, ETC.—The improved feeling recently noticed in the lace trade is maintained. Burmese flouncing and goods continue to meet good request, as do stiff dressed medium Valenciennes edgings. The demand for Valenciennes flounces and laces in sets is also sustained. Everlasting trimmings are selling pretty freely. Many curtain manufacturers are indifferently employed, competition having lately much increased. Silk goods are only in moderate request.

#### ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

J. S., Cornwall.—Yes, some weeks ago. The estimates for the province of Nova Scotia place the revenue at \$600,281, which includes \$120,000 from mines and royalties. The expenditure was placed at \$597,135 which includes \$200,000 for education; \$130,000 for roads and bridges; \$13,000 for agriculture; \$8,000 for Crown lands.

J. C. & B.—The company is a reliable one. Its report for 1885 showed at the meeting held on 6th April that its accumulated funds were £1,060,850.

—An illustration of the competition which British makers of iron and steel have to face is afforded by recent purchases of steel rails for European railways. In one case in which the rails were for Germany,—in another case they were for Italy—we are told that:—"The rails for export, delivered at Leghorn and Genoa were taken by a German maker at 105.85 francs per ton. At an exchange of 25.20 f. this price equals £4 4s. per ton from which 12s. per ton shall be deducted for freight from Rotterdam or Hamburg to Italian port. This leaves £3 12s. per ton as the price of steel rails after a delivery from the works costing not less than 5s. 3d. Within a few days from this, the Berlin Railway Administration bought rails from four different makers at prices varying between £6 and £6 6s. per ton. In plain words, when the rails were for shipment the German makers accepted £3 12s. per ton. When for use in Germany, the Protective tariff enables the German makers to obtain £6 per ton and over. There is no profit on the export price, a heavy loss rather, but the high price obtained at home enables the German makers to sell cheaply abroad. For this charming result the whole nation of Germany is taxed. Germany inflicts self-taxation, that countries outside of herself may obtain goods at prices very much cheaper than those for which they can be produced."

—Penalties, at the Toronto Police Court:—For calling street car drivers "Rats" and "Scabs," \$20. fine or sixty days in the city gaol.—For setting fire to a building, a clear case, six months in the Central Prison. We venture to think there is no proper proportion observed in these two cases. It is necessary to keep the peace and to protect its guardians, and those who show a disorderly spirit should be punished. But scoundrels

who fire a building and imperil the safety of a whole city should be severely dealt with. We are not surprised, therefore, to see that the fire underwriters have called the attention of the police commissioners to the inadequacy of such a sentence upon an incendiary.

—A great decline in Ulster securities has taken place since the Home Rule scheme of Mr. Gladstone took shape. The fall in bank stocks is specially noticeable. "The uneasiness and alarm to which this general fall bears testimony," says the *Economist*, "are certainly not unjustified." And it adds that, whether Mr. Gladstone's plans succeed or not, "the economic condition of Ireland must for months, if not for years to come, be in the highest degree unsatisfactory." The people of Ulster feel that if Home Rule be forced on them, the financial burthen they will have to carry will be heavy and serious. "With Ulster eliminated, Ireland is incapable of self-support, and it is because they are fully aware of this that the Nationalist party are so resolute in resisting all proposals to confer separate autonomy on Ulster. They rely upon the resources of the North to make up for the poverty of the South."

—A report that the St. Croix cotton mill is about to be shut down altogether, is denied by the *St. Stephen Courier*. Some hands have been discharged, it is true, and it is proposed to lessen the employes about one-third, which will leave between five and six hundred hands in the mill. The object of this cut-down is to work off the surplus manufactured stock, of which the company now holds about \$185,000 worth. "The mill has paid off its entire indebtedness to the customs' department. Furthermore, since operations were begun by the corporation this important factory has imported \$1,041,412 value of free goods, \$504,758 value of dutiable goods, and has paid in customs' duties the sum of \$127,378.27."

—The great drink cycle in the United States, says the *Quarterly Journal of Inebriety*, has reached its highest point and started back on the descending scale. The Internal Revenue Department indicates that for the year ending with June 1885 this decline was nine millions of dollars, (\$9,000,000), less taxes paid than for the year before; showing a greatly diminished production of spirits. From the same authority it appears that the number of persons engaged in the liquor traffic who have paid special taxes to the State or Government has steadily declined since 1883. These are unmistakable limits of the operation of the laws which govern the rise and fall of the production and use of spirits in that country.

—During the past year, says the *Boston Advertiser*, 20,113,663 acres of land have been taken from the public domain of the United States, and have gone into the hands of corporations or private owners, but even this magnificent area—more than four times the size of the State of Massachusetts—is yet 6,535,666 acres less than was absorbed in the previous year. The public lands now remaining to the United States are about 200,000,000 acres, and if the same rate of diminution should be continued for the future as in 1885, public ownership would become a thing of the past within the next ten years.

—A dividend at the rate of six per cent. yearly has been declared by the National Investment Company of Canada.