

has given us rich stores of gold, coal, copper, iron, lead, antimony, manganese, gypsum, and I should not forget the more modest building stone, nor the grindstones, which were of such value in the County of Cumberland in the days of the Reciprocity Treaty. All these are important and valuable resources of the Province. The air of romance which surrounds the search for gold will always create a large interest in gold mining. It is a practical as well as sentimental question in Nova Scotia, for our gold mining industry is very important. While here, as elsewhere, it has been associated with much speculation, we can point to many who, even without the aid of the best appliances, by the exercise of industry and intelligence have made gold mining a success, and accumulated fortunes through the pursuit of that industry. In future I trust that, with improved methods and better management, we may be able to point to still greater success. But, without under-rating the importance of the gold mining industry, it is not too much to say that the more practical men of the country will be inclined to think that we have a greater source of wealth in the coarser minerals, one of which forms the subject of the present bill.

PROGRESS OF THE COAL TRADE.

We have long regarded coal as a very important element in the prosperity of the country. We have been mining coal for many years, and have made a fair measure of progress in relation to that important interest. I have here a statement of the progress made in coal mining from the inception of the industry in 1785, as to which year we have the first record. The quantity produced in that year was 1668 tons. It would consume too much time to go into the matter minutely, but I will note a few of the figures. Down to 1827, when the General Mining Association acquired their rights, there had been only about 150,000 tons taken out. In 1830 the output of the year was 56,000 tons; in 1870 it had grown to 568,279 tons; in 1880 it was 954,659 tons; in 1890 it was 1,786,111 tons; and in 1891 it was 1,849,945 tons. The statistics for 1892 are not yet completed, but the figures will not differ materially from those of 1891.

There are, no doubt, many who think that that is a fair measure of progress for the coal mines of Nova Scotia. If we look at that statement alone, and remember that from year to year—with rare exceptions, when there was a falling off—there has been a steady