

the motives which might have prompted him to agitate the question of coal duty in Nova Scotia. It was true an enormous capital was invested in a coal mining industry in that Province, probably from twelve to fifteen million dollars, represented, perhaps, by from six to eight millions of actual value. But there was no concealing the fact that the coal producers of Nova Scotia had shown great lack of energy and want of judgment. It was quite certain that they had stood still and allowed themselves to be beaten in the race with very little effort to save themselves from the consequences of which they complained. The only means they had ever taken collectively, in order to obtain relief, as they had themselves admitted, was to combine together and ask Parliament to impose a duty of fifty to seventy-five cents per ton on coal. The whole quantity of coal used in this Dominion in the year, so far as he could estimate, was from 1,400,000 to 1,500,000 tons, of which 933,000 tons were imported in the year 1876-7, taken from the return in the Trade and Navigation Reports. Of this amount, a large portion, nearly half, was anthracite coal. In the Dominion there was no anthracite coal; bituminous coal was the only coal product, unless he might make an exception in favour of a very small amount of anthracite coal lately discovered, he believed, in Charlotte, New Brunswick. There was no anthracite coal industry in this country, and, therefore, when they were asked to put a duty on coal, they were asked to put a duty upon a product which, so far as the question of Protection was concerned, would have no influence and be simply a tax upon the taxpayer.

MR. MACDONNELL: What quantity of anthracite is imported, and what quantity of bituminous?

MR. DYMOND said the anthracite coal, which came entirely from the United States into this Dominion, in 1876-7 amounted to 420,000 tons; the bituminous coal was represented by the importation from Great Britain of 160,000 tons, and from the United States of 353,000 tons, making a total of 513,000 tons of bituminous and 420,000 tons of anthracite. So

far as bituminous coal in Quebec was concerned, Nova Scotia had no competition to fear from the United States, as no bituminous coal was imported from the United States east of the Ottawa River. He believed, however, a small quantity of American bituminous coal came to Ottawa for gas-making purposes, it being found advantageous to mix it with Nova Scotia coal. Thus far, Nova Scotians had nothing to fear from the Americans in the way of competition, from Ottawa to Cape Breton. What they had to complain of was the importation of English coal, and the Government was therefore asked to establish a retaliatory tariff which, so far as the 160,000 tons of coal were concerned, would operate directly against Great Britain. And further, it was well known with gentlemen engaged in the shipping industry, that this coal was a most important consideration in connection with the shipping trade; the vessels which sailed from Quebec or Montreal with cargoes brought out coal as ballast, having bought it in England at prices very little above ballast rates. A tax on coal would, therefore, be a direct tax upon our shipping industry; that industry for which the hon. member for Cumberland, in 1874, expressed so much concern. A large quantity of American bituminous coal, as well as anthracite coal, was consumed in Ontario. There was not a single ton of Nova Scotia coal used in Ontario, unless it were occasionally a small lot as the result of some casual adventure. In Ontario, in 1876, were consumed 261,895 tons of anthracite coal, and 345,000 tons of bituminous American coal; while in Quebec, the same year, the consumption of anthracite was 117,000 tons. No bituminous coal of the United States was used in the Province of Quebec. The proposition, under a retaliatory system, was to impose a duty of 75c. per ton on the whole coal importations. He contended, in the first place, that this would not be efficacious in forcing the Nova Scotia coal upon the Western Canadian market. He had already shown that American coal did not enter into competition in the Quebec market; therefore a retaliatory

MR. DYMOND.