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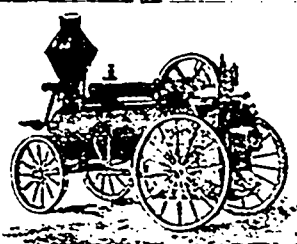
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MINING.

COAL TRADE.

From Report of the Department of Mines, Year 1891.

The returns show a sale during the past year of 1,849,945 tons against 1,786,111 tons during the preceding year. The increase was not as large as anticipated in the spring, and the explosion at Springhill collieries, reported on in the report for the year 1890, reduced the output of Cumberland County by about 30,000 tons.

As compared with the sales of 1890 the most noticeable points are:—

The home sales were 639,737 tons compared with 601,956 tons in 1890. The Province of Quebec took 775,286 tons against 751,931 tons in 1890. The sales to the United States were 2,585 tons of round, 58 tons of run of mine, and 22,788 tons of slack coal, in all 25,431 tons, as compared with 50,854 tons in 1890.

The sales to Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and other points show little difference.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

The sales of the county were 462,267 tons against 438,608 tons in 1890.

The production of the collieries of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company was 459,395 against 419,012 in 1890, in spite of the delay caused by the explosion. Since that date the enlargement and completion of the air-way has been finished. New pumps, screens, etc., have been put in, and the colliery generally placed in excellent order. Safety lamps alone are used underground and no explosives.

The Chignecto mine has remained closed, and no returns of a satisfactory character have been received of the results of the prospecting carried on for other seams.

A little work has been done on the Maccan River collieries by Mr. Smith and others. Mr. Sharp, of Amherst, and others, have traced the Styles seams further to the east, and added materially to our knowledge of this part of the district.

At the Joggins mines the system of long wall has been continued, and improvements made to the railway and wharf. The output was 60,056 tons.

PICTOU COUNTY.

The sales were 405,096 tons as compared with 430,509 tons in 1890.

The home sales were 265,098 against 277,753 tons in 1890.

The Province of Quebec took 63,219 tons compared with 90,461 tons in 1890.

The output of the Acadia Company was 286,372 tons, and of the Intercolonial Company 140,728 tons. The Black Diamond Colliery was purchased by the Acadia Company, which will continue the extraction of the pillars, etc.

At the Albion Colliery the work of re-opening the Ford Pit has been continued with success.

I submit herewith the report of Mr. Madden on the Collieries of Pictou and Cumberland Counties during the past year:—

Westville, N. S., 31st December, 1891.

E. GILPIN, Esq., Inspector of Mines, &c., &c.

DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to send you herewith a condensed statement of my official work as Deputy Inspector of Mines for the Districts of Pictou, Colchester and Cumberland for the year ending 31st December, A. D. 1891, including also a report on some of the gold mines of the Province I have visited officially during the same period.

INTERCOLONIAL COAL MINING COMPANY, WESTVILLE.

The principal work in this mine during the past year has been extracting the pillars on the 3,000 feet lift; on the north side the pillars have been very satisfactorily drawn, and all the plant from that side taken to the south side. A large proportion of the work done was in the S. Holmes area, in which they are successfully mining a large percentage of coals. There are yet, however, on their own area a block of coal 450' by 1800', standing with (4) four back-balances driven up to mine bord on next lift. A tail-rope running with 22 boxes on each trip is used on this level, and has proved an economical feature in underground haulage, and from the success obtained in its use I would wish to draw to it special attention, as with it in this district one boy can alone do the work that hitherto (8) eight horses and as many drivers were required to do, which success, I trust, will induce others to follow the example. From this level a tunnel has been turned off to strike the Scott pit seam; the tunnel, it is computed, will require to be driven a distance of (600) six hundred feet, and to strike the seam down a distance of about 3,000 feet from the surface. As the Scott pit seam improves in quality to the dip, it is believed that at this point the coal will be of extra good quality. On the lift below this the levels have been driven in on each side a distance of about (600) six hundred feet, and they intend driving them until the line is reached on each side before extracting the coal, any further than to put up balances for returns, and then bring back the pillars on the fresh timber. There is sufficient coal on the 3,000 feet lift to keep the mine working until the levels in the lower lift are in to the line. The Scott pit is now idle, and will remain so until the next season's shipping begins. The management intend to commence sinking another lift of (600) six hundred feet. The new winding engine, of which I made mention in last year's report, hoists (11) eleven boxes each trip.

Considerable expenses have been incurred this year in buildings, the most important of which was a new brick engine house for the hoisting engine, also a new car shop; and the bank house being too small, was enlarged.

(To be continued.)