

shareholders that he would return in the fall and pay them a dividend of 50 per cent."

"Mr. Stevenson was now desirous of sending a circular to the shareholders explaining why the work was not finished, and desired me to write a report for that purpose, after having failed to induce Dr. Cameron, a shareholder, to do so. I told him that a report I could write would do him more harm than good, and he subsequently induced one of the workmen to write one. This report has never been produced."

From the above it is quite evident that the affairs of the company are in a state of internal disorder, and in the interests of the shareholders, it is hoped a thorough and unprejudiced investigation may be made speedily.

The Nova Scotia Coal Trade.

Our prognostications on the subject of the coal trade of Cape Breton during the present season are now in a fair way for fulfilment as the statement below will show. This gives at the mines of the Dominion Coal Co., a total output of 1,032,448 tons, from the 1st January to 31st October, and at the time of writing the November shipments justify an estimate of 80,000 tons. If to this is added 40,000 tons for December, the year's total should approximate to 1,150,000, or somewhere about 200,000 tons in excess of any previous year's shipments.

Some of the individual mines have done remarkably well, notably Reserve and Caledonia. The former will exceed 250,000 tons for the year which will entitle it to be called the "banner" mine of C. B., and the latter will not be more than 10,000 tons behind. As this has been achieved without any banking—or at any rate very little—it must be considered highly satisfactory. Everyone expected Reserve with its extensive workings and splendid system of haulage to do well, but there will be general surprise to find Caledonia so little behind. For two years this mine has been a source of trouble and expense to the Company—upwards of \$250,000 have been spent in converting an old into a new Colliery and almost everything modern which was supposed to improve the equipment of a mine has been brought there, and yet little or no result had followed. The season of 1894 found bankhead and screens only partially ready and it took nearly three months to get them and the dumping cages into running order. The consequence was that the end of the season placed only 125,000 tons to the credit of Caledonia. The

season of 1895 found things in pretty much the same condition only that the hindrance was a complicated and erratic mechanical cager known as "Mitchell's devil." This lost at least 75,000 tons during the season. When at last the Company realized that something must be done—and that experimenting did not pay.—the matter was taken in hand, and the same system of haulage by means of which Reserve has climbed to the top of the tree was installed at this mine and the result has more than realized expectations, enabling Caledonia to tread closely on the heels of Reserve, and come out with the very large total of about 240,000 tons this year.

Another mine which has surprised onlookers is Old Bridgport, which has jumped from 50,000 tons in 1894 and 100,000 tons in 1895 to 145,000 tons this year. The Hub has also done well, approximating to 120,000 tons.

The unfortunate mines have been Gowrie and Victoria. The former has been reduced to less than half strength, and even with that has only been able to work two or three days a week for lack of trade. There is some reason to hope that matters will brighten somewhat for this veteran mine, which as long ago as 1873, was the largest producer in C. B., except Old Sydney, and it is expected that the new coal washing plant now being erected near Morrison lake will contribute to the development at Gowrie.

In the case of Victoria the misfortune has arisen from a totally different cause, viz:—the collapse of a large pump which was supplied under contract to deal with the whole of the water in the mine. This has broken down three separate times causing the water to flood the workings and put an end to mining operations. With exemplary patience the Company have allowed the contractors to repair their work again and again and we believe they are now sanguine that the last job is a good one and the mine likely to be free from water within a few weeks. This will be too late to contribute much more to the shipping of the present season, but if having got rid of the water the Company will set to work in earnest to develop the mine for next season, they may do much to retrieve the losses of the last two years and to place this excellent mine on a more satisfactory footing.

We think the Dominion Coal Company may congratulate themselves on one fact at any rate that within three years the capacity of their mines has been doubled, for by the particulars given below it will be seen that in spite of Victoria and Gowrie being reduced to half strength, the mines have yielded over 9,000 tons as one day's work and this for nine months work is equal to 2,000,000 tons per annum. Clearly what they now require

ST. LAWRENCE COAL TRADE.

By courtesy of Messrs. Carbray, Routh & Co., Montreal, we are enabled to publish this month our usual summary of the deliveries of bituminous coal to St. Lawrence ports during the shipping season just closed. The figures since 1885 are:—1894, 796,282 tons; 1893, 737,891 tons; 1892, 626,087 tons; 1891, 602,323 tons; 1890, 543,656 tons; 1889, 467,525 tons; 1888, 517,539 tons; 1887, 482,103 tons; 1886, 377,500 tons; 1885, 360,000 tons.

	MONTREAL.		SOREL.		THREE RIVERS.		QUEBEC.		TOTALS.		EACH FIELD.	
	1895	1896	1895	1896	1895	1896	1895	1896	1895	1896	1895	1896
Cape Breton.	General Mining Association.....	73,273	74,610	8,686	8,808	1,843	2,144	31,633	33,473	115,435	119,035	
	Dominion Coal Company.....	415,081	485,804	8,223	9,053	7,957	5,571	23,252	47,345	454,513	547,773	
	Cape Breton Colliery.....		4,750						1,330		6,080	
	Totals.....	488,354	565,164	16,909	17,861	9,800	7,715	54,885	82,148	569,948	672,888	569,948
	Intercolonial Coal Company.....	66,571	33,569							66,571	33,569	66,571
	Scotch, English and American.....	79,777	67,434					8,652	18,933	88,429	86,367	88,429
		634,702	666,167	16,909	17,861	9,800	7,715	63,537	101,081	724,948	792,824	724,948