

INFORMATION

—RESPECTING—

The Coal Deposits of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton,

—AND REPORT OF—

THE INVERNESS COAL MINES.

(Situate at Broad Cove, Cape Breton, N. S., Canada).

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CAPE BRETON is an Island of British America, to the north-east of Nova Scotia, from which it is separated by a strait about fifteen miles long and a mile wide, known as the Gut of Canso. Its length from north to south is about 110 miles and its width 87 miles, and its area 2,650,000 acres. The surface of the Island is broken in several places by ranges of hills of moderate elevation, and the northern promontory consists of a plateau, which in some parts has a height above the sea of 1,200 feet. The prevailing rocks belong to the carboniferous formations, interrupted here and there by igneous or metamorphic upheavals. About the half of the surface is said to be capable of cultivation. The commercial resources of the Island consist chiefly in its timber, its agricultural productions, its minerals and its fisheries. Nearly covered with forest at the time of its discovery, it still exports pine, oak, beech, maple, birch and ash. Oats, wheat, turnips and potatoes are extensively cultivated; horses, cattle and sheep are reared in considerable numbers; and cheese and butter form important items in its produce. Coal, limestone and gypsum are worked, and excellent iron ore and slate are also to be found. The lakes and neighboring seas supply an abundance of salmon, cod, mackerel, herring, shad and whitefish, and the fisheries employ about 3,000 men. By the census of 1871 the total population amounted to 75,483. (*Ency. Brit.*, Vol. 5, p. 40.)

Nova Scotia is especially rich in mineral wealth. Valuable deposits of coal, iron and gold are enclosed within her soil, the extent of which are not yet fully known. Enough, however, has been discovered to prove that this Province exceeds any country of the same extent in mineral resources.

There are five known coal fields in Nova Scotia, three of which—Sydney, Inverness and Little River coal fields are in Cape Breton; and two—the Pictou and Cumberland coal fields are in the Province proper. Twenty collieries are now working in these several coal districts, employing 4,235 men and boys; during the year 1888 there were raised from the different mines 1,586,500 tons. This being the largest output in any one year since the discovery of coal in the Province, and it is asserted on good authority that the present state of the coal trade indicates an increased output, during the immediate future, far exceeding anything in the past. There are now over four thousand men and boys employed in this industry, but fully one thousand more could obtain employment at the