

Nova Scotia.

The production of coal in Nova Scotia in 1909 was less than the 1908 production by 1,000,450 tons, or a decrease of 15 per cent. Yearly statistics of output, sales, colliery consumption and production since 1872 are shown in Table 8, the figures being given in both long and short tons. The production by counties during the past four years is shown in Table 9. The Provincial Department of Mines in this Province collects and publishes coal statistics covering the fiscal year ending September. The colliery output during the last three such years is shown in Table 10, and the distribution of coal sold during the same period, in Table 11.

The total production during the calendar year 1909 was 5,652,089 tons (5,046,508 long tons), of which 4,045,657 tons, or 72 per cent, were obtained from Cape Breton county, 734,042 tons, or 13 per cent, from Pictou, and 494,398 tons, or 9 per cent, from Cumberland county, the balance being from Inverness and Colchester counties.

The falling off in production in 1909 is probably to be attributed to a number of reasons, among which the labour strikes figure prominently. During the first five months of the year the demand for coal was apparently very much less than during the corresponding period in 1908. A large number of employes of the Dominion Coal Company went on strike in July, and although the collieries were not completely shut down the output was seriously reduced. A similar strike at the Inverness mine of the Inverness Railway and Coal Company affected that Company's output. The mines of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company were almost completely closed by a strike on August 10.

The March mine, in Pictou county, operated by the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, was closed down at the end of March.