

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE COAL TRADE.

Its Great Development Under the
Operation of the National
Policy.

THE QUESTION OF DUTY.

**No More Revenue Collected from Coal
than from Tea and Coffee Under the
Old Tariff—Employment for Labor
Afforded—Interprovincial Trade Pro-
moted.**

(To the Editor of the Gazette.)

SIR,—Desiring to look into the effects of the National Policy on the coal trade of Nova Scotia, I prepared the following table from official records:—

Sales in Tons.	1874-78.	1880-85.
Total coal sales.....	3,480,705	7,053,535
Sold to United States.....	687,830	587,940
Sold to other coun- tries.....	411,530	564,205
Sold within Domini- on.....	2,401,495	5,801,390
	Per annum average 1874-78.	Per annum average 1880-85.
Total coal sales.....	698,141	1,175,589
Sold to United States.....	133,538	97,090
Sold to other coun- tries.....	82,300	94,034
Sold within Domini- on.....	480,399	986,898

The average increases in 1880-85 period over the 1874-78 period are: In total coal sales, protective period over unprotected, 68.87 per cent.; in coal sales to other countries, protective period over unprotected, 14.25 per cent.; in coal sales within the Dominion, protective period over unprotected, 101.30 per cent. The decrease in sales to the United States is 36.27 per cent.

Looking over the rows of figures which I have collated, I find three great facts standing out prominently:

1. Confederation does not appear to have injured that great branch of Nova Scotian industry—the coal mining industry. The total coal sales in 1868 were 453,624 tons. There was then a duty of \$1.25 per ton on Nova Scotian coal shipped to the United States.

Of the total sales of that year, 198,920 tons went to the United States and 53,840 tons to other countries, leaving 200,864 tons to be distributed throughout the Dominion.

In 1873 the United States duty on Nova Scotian coal was 75 cents a ton, and the quantity shipped (see trade returns) to the United States was 226,058 tons out of a total of 861,106 tons, the remainder being distributed: to other countries, 138,847 tons, and for use within the Dominion, 516,207 tons—an increase of 128 per cent.

In 1875, '76, '77 and '78, the years of general depression when Canada had no fence up to keep out poachers on her industries, the total sales varied but little, while the quantity going to the United States dwindled till in 1879 it was but 63,936 tons, or three and a half times less than the amount of 1873. During that same distressful period the sales for consumption, within Canada, also varied but little, being as follows: '75, 483,939 tons; '76, 463,690 tons; '77, 556,855 tons, and '78, 508,068 tons.

Since the present tariff has been in force the sales to the United States have shown no improvement; those "to other countries" considerable improvement, while those for home consumption in Canada have risen year

by year from 554,605 tons in 1879 to 1,052,561 tons in 1885.

Now, had the province been out of the confederacy the sales to the United States would certainly not have been otherwise than the records show, while the sales to the other provinces would not have shown the same gratifying increase or anything like it. When it is recollected that nearly 23,000 persons, big and little, live by the coal industry in Nova Scotia it ought surely to be a matter of congratulation among the people of that province, as well as throughout Canada, that they joined the union in 1867.

2. The present tariff does not appear to have prevented the Nova Scotian coal owners from selling to outside countries other than the United States, since the yearly average of such sales shows an increase of 14 per cent. Some thought the National Policy would increase cost of articles so that the Nova Scotia coal would be prevented from succeeding in competition with coal mined in free trade countries. These fears have been proved groundless.

3. The table given above shows beyond a doubt that the present tariff has stimulated the coal trade to a very great degree; an increase within the Dominion of over 100 per cent. in the consumption of home raised coal within the short period of six years is little short of marvellous.

In 1885, the coal sales from Nova Scotian mines within the Dominion were five times those of 1868. In 1868 the proportion of home raised coal sales to imported coal was 2 tons to 15 tons; in 1885, it was 2 tons to 10 tons. The home article gains on the imported slowly, it is true, but it gains. Up to 1878 the imported article was outstripping the home. The tide then turned, and little by little the home article has gained in the market against the foreign. It is good news to learn that the most recent returns indicate that last year shows even a greater proportionate improvement.

This increase in home consumption has been secured by the operation of the National Policy, without increasing the burden of taxation borne by the general public.

The price of coal at the customs houses of Canada, as entered by the importers in 1874, averaged \$4.72 per ton. The average last year was \$3.70.

Further, had the Government been unable to obtain any revenue from coal it would have been compelled to retain the duties on tea and coffee.

The opponents of the present tariff say their plan is to place a duty on tea and coffee and take it off coal. What would be the result?

Coal, tea and coffee in 1885 paid duty as in the first column of figures below. Had the Cartwright tariff been in force they would have paid duties as given in the second column:—

	First column. Second column.	
Coal.....	\$1,084,381	
Tea.....	33,438	1,032,030
Coffee.....	21,207	86,814
Total.....	\$1,118,904	\$1,118,853

That is to say under the revenue tariff of the Liberals the whole Dominion would have in 1885 paid just \$59 less than it actually paid, the coal industry of Nova Scotia would have been closed, 20,000 persons would have been compelled to go to the States seeking a livelihood and \$15,000,000 or \$20,000,000 of capital invested would have been lost—sunk in holes in the ground and in rapidly rusting out machinery. By paying \$59 a year more under a readjusted tariff a great industry has been set on its legs and is growing sturdily and strong.

GEO JOHNSON.