

Value of
imports,
1888.

408. The total value of imports of minerals and products chiefly manufactured therefrom, in 1888, was \$28,230,788, of which amount \$8,975,792 was for coal, and \$12,000,000 for iron and steel, the two forming 74 per cent. of the whole sum.

Production of
coal, 1888.

409. The most important mineral, in point of value, produced in Canada in 1888, was coal, the quantity being 2,658,134 tons, valued at the point of production at \$5,259,832, being an increase over 1887 of 239,640 tons. In the former year the quantity produced was 2,418,494 tons.

Coal pro-
ducing
portions of
Canada.

410. Almost all the coal at present is produced in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and British Columbia, but the coal deposits in the North-West Territories will soon be extensively developed and the output very materially increased. These deposits are inexhaustible, the coal-bearing area being estimated at 65,000 square miles, and the quantity of fuel known to underlie some portions of this area at from 4,500,000 to 9,000,000 tons per square mile. This coal varies from lignite to bituminous coal, and in the Rocky Mountains large deposits of anthracite have been found, beds of which are being worked near Banff, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, by the North-West Coal and Navigation Company and the Canadian Anthracite Company. All the coal supplied to the Canadian Pacific Railway at Brandon and points west is now exclusively the product of Canada, and the Canadian Anthracite Company are finding a constant demand for their coal in the San Francisco market, and as the Banff mines are nearer to that city than are any of the United States anthracite coal fields, it is probable they will become the principal source of supply for that class of fuel. The importance, from an Imperial point of view, of having large deposits of smokeless coal within two days' journey of the principal naval stations on the Pacific coast can hardly be over-estimated. Anthracite has been found cropping out in Queen Charlotte Island, B.C., but though a considerable sum has been spent in prospecting and mining, no good results have as yet been accomplished.