

it is possible 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 prospecting and mining, no good results have as yet been accomplished.

Coal fields of Nova-
Scotia. 438. The coal fields of Nova Scotia are estimated to occupy an area of 685 square miles and, as at present known, are five in number, viz., three in Cape Breton and two in the Province proper. The coal is bituminous, and for gas, cooking and steam purposes equals any in the world.

The placing of an import duty upon bituminous coal in 1879 has had the effect of very largely increasing the production of coal in this Province, as is apparent from the figures in a subsequent table, and has also been the means of developing a large and increasing interprovincial trade between Nova Scotia and Quebec, particulars of which are here given:—

SALES OF NOVA SCOTIAN COAL TO QUEBEC.

YEAR.	Tons.	YEAR.	Tons.
1877	95,118	1884.....	396,782
1878	83,710	1885.....	493,917
1879	154,118	1886.....	538,762
1880.....	239,091	1887.....	650,858
1881.....	268,628	1888.....	678,321
1882.....	383,031	1889.....	631,796
1883.....	410,605	1890.....	751,931

Production of coal in Canada 1888 and 1889.

439. The following table shows the production of coal by Provinces in 1888 and 1889.