

can be very materially increased. These deposits are apparently 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 Alberta Railway and Coal 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 as there is a constant demand for anthracite coal in the San Francisco market, and as the Banff mines are nearer to that city than any of the United States anthracite coal fields, 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 in prospecting and mining, no good results have as yet been accomplished. A small quantity of coal is annually raised in the Province of New Brunswick, but the work is only done in a very desultory manner, being carried on principally by farmers when other work is slack.

447. The following table gives the production of coal in Canada, by provinces, during the last two years:—

PRODUCTION OF COAL IN CANADA, 1889 AND 1890.

PROVINCE.	1889.		1890.	
	Tons of 2,000 lbs.	Value.	Tons of 2,000 lbs.	Value.
		\$		\$
Nova Scotia. . . . .	1,967,032	3,073,489	2,222,081	3,571,202
British Columbia. . . . .	649,409	2,319,320	759,517	2,712,560
North-West Territories. . . . .	97,364	179,640	128,953	198,498
New Brunswick. . . . .	5,673	11,733	7,110	13,850
Total. . . . .	2,719,478	5,584,182	3,117,661	6,496,110

Coal fields of Nova Scotia.

448. 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.