

693. Almost all the coal is at present produced in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and British Columbia, but the coal deposits in the North-west Territories are capable of extensive development, and the output 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 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 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.

Coal producing regions of Canada.

694. The following table gives the production of coal in Canada, by provinces, during the last two years, the figures in both years, however, being subject to revision:—

Production of coal in Canada, 1891 and 1892.

PRODUCTION OF COAL IN CANADA, 1891 AND 1892.

PROVINCE.	Tons of 2,000 lbs.	
	1891.	1892.
Nova Scotia.....	2,290,158	2,175,913
British Columbia.....	1,152,588	925,495
North-west Territories.....	165,086	189,489
New Brunswick.....		
Total.....	3,607,832	3,290,897