

698. The output of coal in the province has increased considerably during the last fifteen years, as is shown by the table in par. 702, and one result of this increase has been the development of a large and increasing interprovincial trade between Nova Scotia and Quebec, which is principally carried on by water, and particulars of which for several years are here given.

Develop-
ment of
Nova
Scotia coal
fields.

SALES OF NOVA SCOTIA COAL TO QUEBEC.

YEAR.	Long Tons.	YEAR.	Long Tons.
1877.	95,118	1885.	493,917
1878.	83,710	1886.	538,762
1879.	154,118	1887.	650,858
1880.	239,091	1888.	678,321
1881.	268,628	1889.	631,796
1882.	383,031	1890.	751,931
1883.	410,605	1891.	775,286
1884.	396,782	1892.	746,037

The figures in the foregoing tables have been given in long tons of 2,240 lbs. for better comparison and in order that they may agree with the Nova Scotia provincial returns, from which they are taken and in which the long ton is used.

699. In British Columbia, indications of coal are to be found in many places on the mainland, but the only collieries at present in operation are on Vancouver Island, and are situated at Nanaimo, Wellington and Comox, and are four in number. Shafts are being sunk and prospecting carried on on Tumbo Island, between Victoria and the mainland, and also at Kamloops on the mainland, but the output at present is nil.

Coal fields
in British
Columbia.

700. The total output in 1892 was 826,335 tons of 2,240 lbs., as compared with 1,029,097 tons in 1891, a decrease of 202,762 tons, but this falling off was the result of intentional restriction of production by the proprietors, in consequence of an over supply of cheaply produced coal at San Francisco and Californian ports, by which the exports were reduced from 806,479 tons in 1891 to 640,579 tons in 1892.* Foreign trade has since revived. Almost all the coal exported goes to San Francisco, and out of 1,352,466 tons which entered that port in 1892, 425,170 tons or 31 per cent, came from British Columbia. The following are particulars of the production and distribution of coal in 1892.

Output
and export
of coal in
British
Columbia,
1892.

* Report of Minister of Mines, B. C., for 1892.