

645. British Columbia and Nova Scotia are pre-eminently the mining provinces of the Dominion, over 76 per cent of the miners being reported from these provinces.

In 1881 the census returns showed that there were 6,541 miners and 469 quarrymen in the Dominion. Of the miners British Columbia had 2,792; Manitoba, 6; New Brunswick, 121; Nova Scotia, 2,728; Ontario, 493; Prince Edward Island, 4; Quebec, 391, and the North-west Territories, 6.

646. A comparison of the two enumerations shows that the number of miners in the Dominion more than doubled in the ten years, that British Columbia added 1,799 and Nova Scotia 2,932 to the number employed in mining. This indicates very considerable growth in the development of the mining industries of the Dominion.

647. Coal mining has made rapid advance during the past few years. In British Columbia in 1888 the number of men and boys employed was 2,012, and the output of coal 548,017 tons, giving an average of 272 tons per man.

In 1895 the number of men employed was 2,924, and the coal raised was 1,052,412 tons, giving an average of 360 tons per man.

In Nova Scotia in 1888 the number of men employed in connection with coal mining was 4,651, and the number of tons raised was 1,989,263 long tons, giving an average of 428 tons per man.

In 1895 the number of employees had increased to 5,793 persons, and the number of tons to 2,339,954 long tons, giving an average of 404 tons to each man in the year.

648. The Nova Scotian returns, 1888, show that the 4,651 employees aggregated 897,422 days' labour, or an average of 193 days in the year for each employee.

In 1895 the aggregate number of days of labour was 1,408,568, showing an average of 243 days for each employee in the year.

In this average is included all persons employed under ground and above ground and also those employed in construction, these latter numbering 81 in 1888 and 89 in 1895.

649. In the United States, in the production of bituminous coal, the average working time in 1893 was 204 days. Thus the Nova Scotian coal miners had 39 days more work in the year than the coal miners in the United States.

The returns for the United States indicate that each man produced per diem 2.06 short tons in 1893. The Nova Scotian returns indicate that each man produced 1.70 short tons per diem. The miners in the United States produced, therefore, about 21 per cent more per man per diem than the miners of Nova Scotia.