

The outcome of the work of the Commission was the establishment of a Bureau of Mines for Ontario, with Mr. A. Blue as Director. Four annual reports have been issued. The report of 1894 is a valuable one and contains information which should be studied by those desiring to make themselves well acquainted with the mineral wealth of the Province of Ontario. The Legislature of the province has made provision for summer mining schools at Sudbury and Rat Portage, at which practical instruction is given for the benefit of miners, prospectors and others employed or interested in mining pursuits. Classes were opened in the summer of 1894 and the aggregate regular attendance was 51.

659. Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Quebec, the north and west portions of Ontario, and some parts of the North-west Territories, are essentially the mining districts of the Dominion. Coal has been found in Manitoba, and, during 1892, the Canadian Pacific Railway completed a line to the Souris coal fields, which are now being developed; iron ore is also said to abound in the lake districts, but has not yet been worked; and a number of minerals and metals are known to exist in New Brunswick, but none of them has yet been found in any very large quantities, and mining is only carried on to a small extent. There is no mining in Prince Edward Island.

#### COAL.

660. The coal areas of Canada are estimated at 97,200 square miles, not including areas known, but as yet undeveloped, in the far north.

661. There are 1st, the coal fields of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; 2nd, those of the North-west Territories; 3rd, those of the Rocky Mountains, and 4th, those of British Columbia. The coal areas of Nova Scotia cover about 635 square miles. They are divided into Cape Breton, the Pictou and the Cumberland basins, all in Nova Scotia; New Brunswick containing, so far as known, no seams of sufficient magnitude to be worked successfully in competition with the Cumberland mines.

662. The workable thickness of the coal is very great, in Cape Breton a total of 25 to 60 feet, in Pictou at least 70 feet, and in Cumberland at least 30 feet. If the workable area is reduced one-quarter, say from 406,400 acres to 300,000 acres, and the average thickness of the workable area put at 25 feet, on the basis of 1,000 tons of coal an acre for every foot of coal, the amount of coal in the measures of Nova Scotia is 7,000,000,000 tons.

663. The following average analysis from a paper on Canadian coals read at the Montreal meeting of the British Association will give a fair idea of the coals from the three districts:—

	Cape Breton.	Pictou.	Cumberland.
Moisture .....	0·75	1·19	1·46
Volatile combustible .....	37·26	29·10	33·69
Fixed carbon ..	58·74	60·63	59·35
Ash .....	3·25	9·34	5·50