IMPORTS OF COAL

Figures from Department of Commerce and Labor.

EXPORTS MUCH LARGER

Amount Brought Into This Country Insignificant in Comparison With That Produced Here--Table Giving Production for Fifty Years.

The importations of coal into the United States during the first nine months of the present calendar year have amounted to 2,687,081 tons, against 1,546,112 tons in the corresponding months of the preceding year, an increase of 1,140,969 tons. The rebate of duty on coal authorized by Congress in January, 1903, went into operation January 14, so that the figures for the nine months of 1903 represent the importation of coal free of duty during practically all of that period compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, in which the importations of bituminous coal were dutiable.

The figures here quoted as presented by the Department of Commerce and Labor through its Bureau of Statistics, include both bituminous and anthracite coal, but as the total imports of anthracite in the nine months of 1903 amounted to but 137,248 tons, the chief increase is in bituminous. This increase of 1,140,969 tons is chiefly in coal from the United Kingdom, from which the imports of bituminous coal during the nine months ending with september, 1903, amounted to 1,105,961 tons against 73,248 in the corresponding nine months of 1902. From Canada, which the Bureau of Statistics designates as "British North America" the total imports of bituminous coal for the nine months ending with September, 1903, were 1,225,294 tons against 1,195,869 tons in the corresponding months of the preceding year, an increase of but 29,425 tons from Canada.

FROM OTHER SOURCES.

From other countries the imports are of course extremely small, the largest item aside from the United Kingdom and Canada being Japan, from which 60,484 tons were imported in the nine months of 1903 against 8,176 in the corresponding months of 1902, and "other Asia and Oceania" 303,636 against 258,971 in the corresponding months of 1902. Thus, nearly all of the increase in the importations of coal in the present year under the removal of rebate of duty authorized in January has been from the United Kingdom, while the total increase, as already indicated, amounted to 1,140,969 tons.

Meanwhile the exportation of coal has increased more than the importation. The total coal exported from the United States in the nine months ending with September, 1903, amounted to 6,314,189 tons against 4,720,320 tons in the corresponding months of last year, an increase of 1,593,859 tons.

THE EXPORTS.

The foreign commerce of the United States in coal, whether of imports or exports, is extremely small compared with the domestic production, in which the United States now exceeds any other country of the world. Importations of coal have never reached as much as two million tons in a single year prior to the fiscal year 1903, when they were 3,610,225 tons, or a little more than one per cent. of the domestic production, while the highest figure ever reached in exports was in 1901, when it amounted to 7,675,549 tons. The relative importance of the imports or exports to the coal production from the mines of the United States is shown by the figures of coal production as reported from year to year by the Geological Survey, which shows that the total coal production in the last year was 269 million long tons, the quantity being about the same as 1901, in which year the figures were quoted as 261,873,675 tons. The growth in coal production in the United States is shown by the following table, which shows the number of tons of coal produced in the United States at decennial years from 1850 to 1900, and in 1901 and 1902:

SOME FIGURES.

Coal produced in the United States at decennial years from 1850 to 1900, and in 1901 and 1902.

Calendar year—	Tons.
1850	3,358,809
1860	9,512,122
1870	32,803,000
1880	63,822,830
1890	140,866,931
1900	241,083,238
1901	261,873,675
1902	269,171,003

The following shows the total importation of coal into the United States in nine months of the calendar year 1903 compared with earlier years:

Imports of coal in nine months' periods, 1900 to 1903.

Nine months ending September.	Tons.
1900	1,362,715
1901	1,456,074
1902	1,546,615
1903	2,687,081

DR. STALKER COMING HERE

World-Famed Scholar Accepts Position of Special Lecturer at Seminary.

The announcement is made that the Rev. Prof. James Stalker, D. D., of the United Free Church College, Aberdeen, Scotland, has accepted the position of special lecturer at Union Theological Seminary, of this city, and will deliver a course of lectures there about the middle of April, 1904, on "The Ethical Teaching of Our Lord."

Dr. Stalker is one of the distinguished scholars of the world. He probably has a wider hearing among Bible students than any other writer of the day on religious themes. Thousands of people have read his books such as Imago Christi, The Preacher and His Models, Men and Morals, The Trial and Death of Jesus Christ, The Life of Christ, and The Life of St. Paul. In his letter to Rev. Dr. Turnbull, accepting the invitation of the trustees and faculty, he speaks of the keen desire he has long had to visit the South, and adds: "Naturally I am gratified at being invited to visit the principal seminary there belonging to my own denomination."

After a visit to Richmond and the Seminary, Mr. T. B. Penfield, of the International Y. M. C. A. of Theological Seminaries, has announced that there is a probability that the bi-annual conference of theological students will be held next year at the Seminary, in November or December. There will be representatives of all theological seminaries of all denominations in the eastern part of the United States.

REMAINS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY IN RICHMOND

If you have blurring, dizziness, neuralgia, headache, spots before the eyes, inflammations, winking, trembling spells, cataract, burning and smarting of the eyes, various nervous and brain affections, entailing not only positive injury to the sight, but untold misery, call immediately.

Charles Lincoln Smith, the famous New York optician, is at Murphy's Hotel Annex, private rooms Nos 150, 152 and 154. Consultation absolutely free Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Eighth-Street entrance. Take elevator.

Office hours—10 A. M. to 4 P. M.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON

FOR NOVEMBER 1, 1903.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

Subject: Absalom and David.—II. Samuel xv, 1-12.

Golden Text: "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."—Ex. xx, 12.

By Rev. J. E. Gilbert, D. D., Secretary of American Society of Religious Education

CONTEXT.—Our last historic lesson, studied October 11th, was in the seventh chapter. The eight intervening chapters treat David's sin with Bath-sheba, the murder of Uriah, the preaching of David; the death of his child, the birth of Solomon, the subjugation of the Amonites the sin and murder of Ammon, the flight of Absalom to Geshur, his mother's home, his return to Jerusalem through the intercession of Joab, and his reconciliation with David. The evils of the polygamus system were beginning to appear in the household of David, who, as mentioned had followed the custom of Eastern Kings, in violation of the law of nature and of God. (Gen ii:18). From this time forward he reaped a just retribution in the rivalries and jealousies of numerous wives and their sons. (Gal. vi:7). It was apparent that in a few years the throne would be vacant. Many aspirants, forgetful of all propriety, were plotting for the succession and Jerusalem was filled with factious whose movements caused the King much unrest,

PREPARATION.—The first son of David, Ammon, was dead (II Sam. xiii:28-29) and Chiliah also, inasmuch as he was never mentioned, the second son, had probably deceased. This made Absalom, the third son, heir to the throne. His mother was Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, the King of Geshur, a Syrian district lying on the northeast of the Holy Land. (II Sam. iii:5). While a fugitive at his father-in-law's court (II Sam. xiii:38) he may have conceived the purposes which afterward dominated him, or he may have feared that unless early and decisive measures were adopted Bath-Sheba's son might supplant him. He therefore prepared while his father was living to gain regal powers. As soon as David had been reconciled (xiv:33), he set promptly to work. His first act was to secure chariots and horses, contrary to the law (Deut. xviii:16), but no one would know that he had any purpose contrary to his father's will. Next he engaged fifty men to run before him as an advanced guard. This invested him with dignity, constituting him a military officer entitling him to respect.

JUDGEMENT.—Having thus a place in the government Absalom sought opportunity for the exercise of authority. Had there been war he might have distinguished himself in battle. But as it was a time of peace he was compelled to enter into the ordinary affairs of life. The administration of justice was loosely conducted. David had given attention to foreign wars and neglected domestic interests. As a result many came with complaints and found no one to hear them. And so "Absalom stood beside the way of the gate," where all manner of differences were adjusted (Ex. xviii:16) the court-room of those times and gave an attentive ear to all who came. It was a valuable service which he rendered, appreciated by the people with whom he came in contact, because he was the King's son. It was a service that might have been rendered with a praiseworthy motive, deserving the thanks of his father. But below every other consideration was the sinister desire for the throne.

INTRIGUE.—Absalom did not stand in the gate to judge men. He had no right to do that. The King had not deputed him to such business. He was there to win the dissatisfaction, those who came for justice and found it not. His method was adroit. (Verses 3 and 4.) He first took sides with the complainant. After hearing, he pronounced the cause just. (Psalm xii., 2.) That was calculated to gain friendships. Next he declared that there was no one authorized to sit on the case, the same as to say that the department of justice was a failure, probably not far from the truth. That assertion was designed to awaken criticism upon David. Then came the third point for which the other two prepared the way, an earnest desire that he might be made judge. (Prov. xxv., 6-7.) and a promise that he would do the honorable thing by each complainant. By these secret artifices, feigning to be the friend to the unfortunate, Absalom intrigued day after day in the public places dedicated to the rights of men, seeking to bring the government of his father into contempt and to elevate himself as the disinterested benefactor, waiting and anxious to serve the people.

HYPOCRISY.—He who would gain a following among men must convince them of his regard. Universal humanity is so intent on personal gain as never to trust one who does not with unselfish surrender become a servant. It was therefore necessary for Absalom to do more than pronounce a cause just, regret that there was no one to judge it and offer himself as willing to adjust the grievance. He must exhibit the disposition of his heart. That he did with consumate skill. When any one approached to do reverence to him, he put forth his hand and kissed the person. He knew what grace it puts upon the great to be courteous and condescending, and how much it wins the common people. (Psalm x., 9.) Absalom was a typical office-seeker, and his kind has been produced in this country in great numbers. His hypocrisy was successful. He stole the hearts of the men of Israel, just as now a schemer has been preferred to another of greater worth. (Rom. xvi., 18.)

DECEIT.—At last the time came for Absalom to take the decided step for the throne of his father. The chariots, the forerunners, the admirers and followers gained in the gate were only preliminary. He resolved to retire to Hebron and there be declared king. It is impossible to state why he selected that city. Some think that Judah had become measurably dissatisfied with David because they were merged and overlooked in the large empire he had established. Others think that Absalom had gained the most followers in that tribe, or that he resolved to begin where his father did. (II. Sam. ii., 11.) Whatever his motive, he resorted to a trick in its execution. He pleaded with David that while absent in Geshur he had vowed to serve the Lord if permitted to return to Jerusalem, and now asked to go to Hebron for that purpose. Ostensibly he put forth a religious errand, while actually he proposed rebellion. He knew that David would do as he did, send him away with a blessing.

ALLIES.—Before leaving Jerusalem for Hebron Absalom took measures to secure popular support when he should be invested with kingly prerogative. Spies or messengers were sent into all the tribes, that the entire Israelitish nation might be made aware at one and the same time of what was about to transpire. It is probable that these messengers went to those who, by flattering word and obsequious kiss, had been made friends of the young man. An agreed signal, the sound of the trumpet, should proclaim to them that Absalom reigned. These arrangements perfected, Absalom set out for Hebron, as David supposed, to worship God, followed by two hundred men who did not know the real mission. (Prov. xvi., 15.) The plot was well laid. It was expected that all suspicion would be removed from the minds of the king and his counselors when the procession moved out of the city, and that when, shortly after, the trumpets sounded, there would be a general uprising of the people, who would rally about the new king.

COUNSEL.—Up to this point there is no evidence that Absalom did not plan his own movements. He seemed to consider himself sufficiently wise to determine the best method of accomplishing his purpose. But now that he is out on the uncertain beginnings of an ambitious career, not knowing what the result may be, he sends for Ahithophel, the counselor of David, (Psalm XLI, 9). This man was chosen, partly because he was esteemed very wise, and partly because, through some misunderstanding, He had been dismissed from public service. (Micah, VII, 6). While performing his pretended services at Hebron Absalom sent for Ahithophel to make him the tool in his nefarious undertakings. Thereafter the consupiracy was strong. Many people hastened from various parts, led by considerations of personal profit in the main, and the adherents to the new king rapidly increased in numbers. Thus while David ruled in Jerusalem his son was establishing a rival government a few miles distant.

CONCLUSION.—This passage is chiefly instructive to sons and fathers. Here is an exhibition of unprincipled ambition. The outcome will appear next week. But no one can view with approval the motives and conduct of Absalom, whatever the result. Standing in the gate, with obsequious kiss and flattering words, considering the government and commending himself, departing to a distant place with professions of loyalty to God, yet sending out spies to proclaim him king, worshipping in Hebron, yet seeking the counsel of one who, known for his cunning, had been thrust out of public confidence. Absolem is a pattern of deceit and fraud. On the other hand what shall be said of a man who raises such a son. (Prov. XXII., 6). David could fight battles and build an empire. He could write hymns and establish public worship. He could gather treasures and enrich a nation. With the exception of one transaction he could prove himself a saint. But, like many other great men, he was not eminently successful as a father. (Eph. VI. 4).

Some Potatoes.

Mr. R. H. Ludham, a prosperous Henrico county farmer, who raises big potatoes and other things on his farm on the Darbytown Road, about six miles from the city, was in town yesterday exhibiting a "hill," of his own growth, of the Nansemond variety of sweet potatoes. Fully a peck of these excellent potatoes were taken from one hill and all were of good size. The "hill" was presented to Mr. Ludham's friend, Dr. Michaux.

Engineer Farmer Improving.

Engineer Charles D. Farmer, who was recently injured in the collision near Keysville, is improving steadily and there is now hope of his early and complete recovery. The family of Mr. Farmer are very grateful for the many kindnesses of friends to them in their trouble and desire to express their appreciation to them and to all who have shown their interest and solicitude.

LOW RATES WEST AND NORTHWEST.

Via Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway, every day until November 30, 1903.

$33, Chicago to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Tacoma, Seattle and many other Pacific Coast points. $30, Chicago to Salt Lake City, Ogden, Grand Junction and many other points in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. Low rates to hundreds of other points.

Through train service, Chicago to San Francisco. Only $6 for a double berth, tourist sleeper, all the way.

To the Northwest via, St. Paul or via. Omaha. Write to-day for folder. George J. Lincoln, 818 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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ARE YOU GOING SOUTH?

Low Winter Tourist Rates via Seaboard Air Line Railway.

Seaboard Air Line Railway announces special WINTER TOURIST rates to all the principal points in Florida and the Southwest. Tickets on sale October 15th, to April 30th, returning until May 31, 1904.

The Seaboard offers a most attractive schedule; fast trains with Pullman's latest and most improved Drawing-Room Sleeping Cars; Dining Car Service south of Hamlet.

Information as to rates, tickets, etc., cheerfully furnished on application to the undersigned.

W. J. MAY,
City Ticket Agent.

H. S. Leard, D'st. Pass'g'r. Agent,
'Phone 405, Richmond, Va.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Change of Schedule Southern Railway, November 1st.

Train No. 11, leaving Richmond at 11:05 for all points South, will, on and after November 1st, leave Richmond at 10:20 P. M. for all points South, will on and after at present.

C. W. WESTBURY, D. P. A.

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RAILROADS AND RAILROAD MEN

N. & W. to Run Special Train to Norfolk for Virginia-Indian Game.

Mr. E. V. Skinner has been appointed assistant traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, with jurisdiction over the territory included in the general eastern agency, with office at No. 353 Broadway, New York.

The Norfolk and Western Railway will run a special train to Norfolk on November 21st for the accommodation of those desiring to attend and witness the University of Virginia-Carlisle Indian School game in that city. The round trip rate will be $1.25. A large crowd from Richmond will go down to see the famous Indian team.

Among the visitors at the local offices of the Southern Railway yesterday were Mr. I. M. Bortle, district passenger agent of the Northern Pacific Railway; W. M. McConnell, traveling passenger agent of the Chicago Great Western, and General Passenger Agent S. H. Hardwick, of the Southern Railway.

Captain C. W. Westbury, district passenger agent of the Southern Railway, went to Newport News yesterday to attend the Confederate reunion there.

The work of elevating the tracks of the Lackawanna Railroad through Newark is rapidly nearing completion. The first passenger car, carrying several of the superintending engineers and other officials of the road, passed over the new track this week. The elevated portion in Newark from the river to a short distance west of High Street will be finished in a few weeks, including the new passenger station off Plane Street. After the old tracks are removed there will be a spacious approach from Broad Street, Newark, to the new passenger depot, and a trolley loop will be run to the broad plazza in front of the waiting rooms. The main entrance to the station is on the south side of the elevation, affording direct access to east bound trains. The improvements will cost more than $4,000,000, and will enable the road to handle its constantly increasing suburban traffic in a most satisfactory way.

Chestnut Hill and Highland Park

The Young People's Flinch Club will be entertained to-night at the residence of Miss Bessie Marshall, on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Alder Street.

Master George Mickleboro, of Fifth Avenue, has returned to his home after undergoing treatment at the Virginia Hospital.

Miss Rochet McKinney, of Farmville, Va., is now the guest of her cousin, Mrs. D. K. Walthall, of Fourth Avenue.

Miss Josie Booth has returned to her home after a pleasant visit to her aunt, Mrs. Hudson, of East Richmond.

Master Clayton Holladay, of Fourth Avenue, who has been quite sick for the past week or so, is slowly improving.

Miss Scott, of Louisa, Va., has been visiting relatives and friends on the "Hill."

Mr. and Mrs. William Price and little son, of Water Valley, Mississippi, who have been visiting the former's sister, Mrs. Goodwin, of Fourth Avenue, left on Thursday last for their home.

Mr. Willie Redford, who was operated on for appendicitis at the Memorial Hospital, is slowly improving.

The Young People's Guild of Epiphany Church, Barton Heights, met last Wednesday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Paul Redd, on Third Avenue and Willow Street.

Mr. Andrew Mosby has returned from Waynesboro, where he spent several days.

Miss Emma Justice, of Powhatan county, is the guest of Miss Katherine Watkins, of Fourth Avenue.

Rev. Mr. McCharthy, of West Point, was the guest of friends on the "Hill" this week.

Mrs. Baber, of Shores, Va., who has been the guest of Mrs. William Spratley, of Highland Park, left Tuesday for Norfolk, where she will spend some time.

The school children will be much gratified to learn that the granolithic pavement will be extended to the schoolhouse in the very near future.

Mrs. William Vawter, who has been visiting in Norfolk, has returned home.

An entertainment will be given next Tuesday evening at the Episcopal chapel by the ladies of the Guild.

Mrs. Wooley, of Massachusetts, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. George Reader, of Fourth Avenue.

Mr. Saunders' Fight.

Mr. W. C. Saunders, Democratic nominee for supervisor in the Brookland District of Henrico county, accidentally omitted to get his name on the ticket to be voted next Tuesday. There are rumors of opposition to Mr. Saunders, and he asks that his friends will be certain to write or stamp his name and not forget to vote. He is sure that no one who participated in the recent primary will fail to support him on Tuesday.

State School Board.

The State Board of Public Instruction will be called to meet here within a short time to map out work for the coming year. The matter of selecting text books for the next five years will come before the board at a meeting to be held in the spring.

Major Anderson Back.

Attorney-General W. A. Anderson has returned from Norfolk, where he and Mr. F. W. Christian consulted their witnesses in the Brickhouse case, to be tried in the United States Court at Norfolk next week.

The case involves the validity of the new suffrage clause.

Buying Bonds.

Second Auditor John G. Dew has just purchased $50,000 of century and Riddleberger bonds and placed them to the credit of the library fund.

This makes $2,000,000 in this fund, the interest on which is annually placed to the credit of the public school system.

COMMERCIAL PAPER FOR RICHMOND

It Will Make Its Appearance About the First of November.

The Harris Printing Company is now preparing to publish their first issue of the Journal of Commerce, at No. 1303 East Franklin Street. It is understood that the initial number of their new paper will appear not later than the 1st of November.

It has been understood by many of the leading business men of this city for several months that a move to this end was on foot, and it is understood that the enterprising firm who will be at the helm have received from them some very substantial encouragement.

The new publication will have, practically speaking, an open field and no competition, as its columns will be devoted entirely to commercial and industrial interests.

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Successors to Thos. R. Price & Co.

...Suits... for the Suitless.

As there may be some folks who want their whole money in real EXCELLENCE rather than in STYLE, at the top of the season we note

A Trio of Values.

I. A Woman's Suit, in Eton or Blouse effect, in black, blue, Oxford and light gray; original values, $15.00, $20.00, $25.00, $30.00; to-day's massacre $6.00

Sizes 32, 34, 36.

II. Cloth or Cheviot Blouse and Eton Suits, black, blue, mode; original values, $12.50 and $15.00; this slaughter..... $5.00

All these Suits are perfect in finish and in fabric; they are last season's products; we shall move them at once.

Wanted: A Home.

III. An odd assemblage of Suits, black or colors, slightly soiled in stock. These are well tailored and may be useful in many ways; sizes 34, 36, 40; original values, $12.50, $18.00, $25.00; this rummage sale now $3.00

Will they last a day at such figures? Your size is in the lot. (Second floor, elevator.)

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Honest Weights and Measures.

Daisy Coffee	10c
Mixed Spices	20c
Small California Hams, pound	9c
Quaker Oats	10c
Best Meal, 18c peck; or, bushel	70c
Irish Potatoes, peck	22c
Large cans Tomatoes, can	8c
Small cans Tomatoes, can	6c
Cut Herring, dozen	10c
Swift's Silver Lard, pound	10c
Butchers' Lard, pound	11c
Good Lard, 9c; or, 3 pounds for	25c
Mother's Oats, package	9c
Seeded Raisins, 1-pound packages	10c
Virginia Buckwheat, 7 pounds for	25c
Table Peaches, 2 cans for	25c
Cocoanuts, each	4c
Full Cream Cheese, pound	16c
Best Evaporated Peaches, pound	9c
Prunes, 7 pounds for	25c
Malta Vita	12c
Wilson Whiskey, bottle	90c
Fulcher Whiskey, bottle	$1.00
Moore's Crown Rye, gallon	$3.00
Duffy's Malt, bottle	80c
Granulated Sugar	4¾c
Pride of Richmond Flour, $4.75; or, sack	30c
Salt Pork, pound	7, 9 and 11c
Daisy Flour, $4.25 barrel; or, sack	28c

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