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that year, one hired vessel, commanded by Captain Prichard, captured three vessels stealing coal in Cow Bay; three others escaped. In 1795 an ordinance of Council was promulgated, declaring "all vessels carrying away coals from the cliffs, without authority, liable to forfeiture." A more marked improvement, however, it will be seen by the table, occurred towards the close of the century, owing probably to the large supplies required by the great number of troops in garrison at Halifax during the French war. Much apprehension was felt during the war for the safety of the mines, which could easily have been destroyed by the enemy. A block-house, which is still standing (Brown is writing in 1871), was erected at the mines; and two batteries, of four guns each, were constructed - one in front of the block-house, the other on Peck's Head. No attack, fortunately, was made upon the works, which continued to supply the garrisons of Halifax, St. John's, and St. Pierre during the war. Upon the expiration of Tremain and Stout's tenancy in February 1800, the Government took possession of the mines and worked them until the end of the following year, under the management of Mr. Campbell, the Attorney-General of the colony! It is not stated whether his management was successful or not, but it is evident he was satisfied that the mines could be worked with profit, as he took them upon a lease of seven years under a royalty of four shillings per ton, stipulating, at the same time, to sell the coal at ten shillings and threepence per ton. This, however, does not appear to have answered his expectations, as he applied in 1803 for a reduction of one shilling and sixpence per ton on the royalty, but failing to obtain it, he not only stopped paying the royalty, but contested several points in his lease, and gave so much trouble, that the Government recommended the Secretary of State either to cancel the lease or call upon Mr. Campbell to resign his office of Attorney-General. In the month of May following Campbell surrendered his lease, when the Government again resumed possession, and worked them for several years; not, however, with much success, as we find General Nepean, the Governor, complaining to Lord Liverpool in 1810, that from June 1808, to September 1810, the mines had only realised a profit of tenpence per ton upon a sale of 16,899 tons. This is not surprising, considering that five officers were employed in the management of such a small business, at a cost of 510 l. per annum, viz.: Superintendent Agent and shipping officer Medical officer Harbour Master Collector of accounts 100 225 100 50 35 510 pounds being thirteen per cent on the gross amount of the sales in 1810. An attempt was made in 1811 to lease the mines to Messrs. Jonathan and John Tremain of Halifax, who offered to take them for twenty-one years at a royalty of two shillings and one penny per ton. Finding, upon more careful enquiry, that the working charges were much greater than they expected, the Messrs. Tremain withdrew their offer, and the Government was compelled to go on working the mines on their own account; but with such small success, that the new Governor, General Swayne, reported to Lord Bathurst in January 1813, that the finances of the colony were in a state of ruin.

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