

Q. What about oil?—A. Oil we look on as more or less of a passing phase. It is another of these emergency fuels. The price and the continuous supply of oil is very uncertain.

*By Hon. Mr. Laird:*

Q. You mean fuel oil?—A. I mean the oil that would be used for domestic purposes, which runs from 30 to 36 Baume. Most domestic oils are not safe for burning, but heavy fuel oil. They burn a light oil, not a kerosene oil.

Q. That is a higher grade oil and more expensive than what is commonly known as fuel oil?—A. Yes, it runs about 12 cents a gallon.

Q. As against what for fuel oil?—A. Fuel oil is usually bought as low as 7 or 9½ cents, and there is not much used for domestic purposes, because it would have to be higher than that if it is to be carried in a furnace. But it is not oil that will be taken up very much, because it needs a special equipment for burning the oil.

*By Hon. Mr. Webster:*

Q. Would the refineries at Montreal and St. John and other places in the eastern provinces not be able to turn out cheaper oil for domestic fuel purposes?—A. They will not make any contract or make any statement about what they will do at all. That is why we cannot get anything definite.

Q. You have been in touch with them?—A. Yes, but they will make no statement about what the fuel situation is going to be at all.

Q. Are the Government supporting your efforts in obtaining this information, or how is your Committee to be operated?—A. At present we are anxious to obtain co-operation and support from wherever we can get it. I might say we are not actually recognized as much as we hope to be, because we have only commenced.

*By Hon. Mr. Casgrain:*

Q. Who is paying for this work?—A. It is partly voluntary. We have no funds, and that limits our activity. The Engineering Institute of Canada is a technical society, and this is a Committee of the Montreal Branch. We only have such funds as that branch have at their disposal and feel can be put to this purpose. It means that those who are doing this work are doing it gratuitously. If the Government would support us we could carry our field of endeavour very much further.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Along what lines would you suggest?—A. There were several ways suggested. One was that we could constitute ourselves as an authoritative body to make tests and pass upon such devices or improvements as may be brought out from time to time for domestic service. Another was that we might encourage or make recommendations, or even enforce some regulations or ordinances regarding smoke nuisance and economical use of fuel. You cannot compel a man to burn fuel economically, but there are certain ways in which you can restrain volumes of smoke. Another way that has been suggested is that the Government could provide, for a supply of fuel, some regulations similar to the Pure Food laws, or something like that, that would restrain unscrupulous—perhaps that is too hard a word—but dealers who are unintentionally selling fuel that is not up to the standard that people think they are getting when they purchase it—I am particularly referring to Welsh coal. There may be ways of specifying or grading the coal so as to guarantee to the consumer that he is getting what he is offered.

[Mr. F. A. Combe.]