

By Hon. Mr. Webster:

Q. Do you see anything of a practical nature that might be worked out for the benefit of the consumer?—A. I have not thought it over, but I do not see anything.

By the Chairman:

Q. Why would that not be good now?—A. I do not know. At the time the understanding was to have a large receiving depot, you see, to cut the expense down. You could not do it now, because coal comes from so many different sources and in so many different ways.

Q. Coal comes down the river to you by water?—A. Yes.

Q. We are speaking now of hard coal.—A. Yes.

Q. It comes by rail on the D. and H.?—A. Yes.

Q. And by rail from the West again, does it?—A. Well, yes, over the Adirondacks.

Q. Over the Adirondacks?—A. Yes; New York Central.

By Hon. Mr. Webster:

Q. Does most of the coal come into Montreal by water or by rail?—A. We think it is nearly fifty-fifty now.

Q. Fifty-fifty.—A. The water used to dominate, but it does not now. You see, a man can get a carload of coal delivered at the terminal and save his cartage. Those small dealers do that.

By the Chairman:

Q. At the railway terminal?—A. At the railway terminal.

Q. What do the larger houses do? I suppose they receive both by rail and by water?—A. No; some of them have all rail.

Q. All rail? How do you get it? By both rail and water?—A. Mostly water for our Montreal trade. It is practically all water now.

By Hon. Mr. Webster:

Q. Are the rentals on the harbour front expensive too, Mr. Robertson?—A. Very.

Q. Very expensive?—A. Very.

Q. Is there any figure you could give?—A. I think we pay now 12 cents a square foot a year.

By the Chairman:

Q. For your storage and your plant?—A. Yes; and then we have to pay the city taxes with that.

Q. About how much coal would you put through that yard in the course of a year?—A. Oh, it varies. We put some soft coal through there as well. We have put through up to say 100,000 tons.

Q. What would your rental be per ton?—A. I could hardly tell you that; I have not the figures just now; we are paying to-day to the Government 12 cents a foot.

By Hon. Mr. Webster:

Q. Those spaces that the Montreal Harbour Commissioners rented while you were a Commissioner were from \$12,000 to \$15,000 or \$19,000 a year for such as the Nova Scotia Steel Company had?—A. Yes, that is about right; I think the rate there was about 10 cents a foot.

By Hon. Mr. Laird:

Q. You spoke about the difference in the car out-turn; is there a shrinkage in every car?—A. No, not in every car.