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Norwich Municipal Coal Association,

Norwich, Ont.

March, 29th. 1923.

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen,

Honourable Sir,-

We the Officials and members of this Coal Association desire to express to you our heartfelt thanks for the stand you are taking with regard to the plank in the platform of "Burning only Canadian coal in Canada, for domestic purposes", Sir, the sentences you have used, show us unmistakable evidence of your ability as a Statesman in insisting that immediate plans be put in operation that will provide an abundance of coal for our own people from our own coal mines in Alberta. For, we too, are confident that the day has come when Canadians must use the principle of good citizenship by burning only Canadian coal from our own mines, and thus save the expenditure yearly of over \$111,283,000 out of our country. This amount was used in purchasing coal in a foreign land in 1922. And, Sir, while we do not approve of unneeded expenditure, we do approve of the building of the road to the anthracite coal fields at the \$4,000,000 the amount named by the Minister in the Commons. If it can supply the people with the kind and quantity of anthracite coal needed. As the amount named is 'four onehundred and elevenths of the foreign expenditure and this will promote the expenditure of our money in Canada.

We admire your view, and heartily coincide with the statement, "this is not the time for experiments" when the needs are not supplied. We thank you too, for mentioning the high freight rate.

Permit us to bring to your attention our plan forwarded to Sir H. W. Thornton acting Minister of Railways about the 17th. Jan (pardon) Honourable Sir if we suggest the propriety of your asking that this request of Jan 27th. of Norwich Municipal Coal Association be placed on the table, which we have reason to believe can be used and will so reduce the high freight that good Alberta coal can be hauled to Ontario for \$6.00 per ton or less.

Sir we are glad to note that in no part of the address did you approve of purchasing foreign coal. For this we also thank you. The suggested plan of this Association is,-

To use the National Railways in hauling good clean coal sifted nut coal such is offered at \$3.00 a ton loaded on the car (or other varieties accordingly) at \$6.00 a ton freight, and hauled during the six or seven months when there is no grain to haul and consequently the railways are idle for want of traffic. By this method there will be no idle time in the year. The deficit is changed to a surplus. The price of the coal is used in our Country and no freight is paid on railways in another land.

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