

ture, some of which facts have already been published, while others have been obtained by correspondence, and in one case a special trial has been made at the Pictou Gas-Works.

COALS OF THE ALBION MINES.

The following extracts are from letters by Mr. George Buist, Manager and Chemist of the Halifax Gas Company, and Mr. W. W. Greenough, Manager of the Boston (Mass.) Gas Company, in answer to letters from myself, soliciting information for this Report. The companies represented by these gentlemen, have been for years large consumers of the Albion Mines coal.

LETTER OF MR. GEORGE BUIST.

(Copy.)

GAS OFFICE, HALIFAX, N.S., Feb. 24th, 1870.

Edward Hartley, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of 8th instant, making enquiries regarding Pictou coal.

I think the following statement may be taken as giving the correct quantities of the gas, coke and tar produced from one (1) ton of 2,240 lbs. Mr. Buist's letter.

The quantity of gas will average about.....	7,300 cubic feet.
Illuminating power, about	15½ to 16 candles.
Weight of coke, about.....	1,450 lbs.
Quantity of coal-tar, about.....	9½ to 10 gallons.

The sulphur in the Pictou coal is very much less than in any of the other Nova Scotia coals. The quality of the coke is very good indeed.

I remain,

Yours truly,

(Signed,)

GEORGE BUIST.

LETTER OF MR. W. W. GREENOUGH.

(Copy.)

OFFICE OF BOSTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY,

No. 20 West Street, Boston, Feb. 7th, 1870.

Edward Hartley, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,—

Your letter of inquiry of the 4th instant

reached me

We use the caking coals of Pictou and Cape Breton, in combination with richer coals. Mr. Greenough's letter.
The proportions of these combinations are based upon experimental trials of each coal separately.

The best results in gas-making with the Pictou coals, are obtained by working the retorts at a cherry-red heat. One then gets from each ton of 2240 lbs., 7280 feet of gas—of strong 15-candle illuminating power, with a yield of 1325 lbs. of coke of fair quality. Higher heats will give more gas of an inferior grade, and with a diminished value of coke. This coal contains but a small proportion of sulphur compounds, is easily purified, and may be safely stored without danger from spontaneous combustion.*

Yours truly,

(Signed,)

W. W. GREENOUGH.

* The rest of this letter refers to Cape Breton coals, and need not be quoted here.