

It was also manifest that the average citizen cannot afford to pay the ruling prices for American anthracite coal, ranging from \$16.50 to \$19.50 per 2,000 lbs., delivered in bulk, and more when "bagged." The evident question is "How can the situation be improved?" My answer is the following:

1. Encourage the use of screened Canadian bituminous coal for cooking and heating where stoves are used. In the U.K. and in the Maritime provinces and our northwest, where the winters are very severe, bituminous coal and the less efficient lignite are practically used for every domestic purpose requiring fuel.
2. Develop the vast peat areas adjacent to large cities and towns to produce air dried peat fuel at low cost and educate the public as to its fuel value for cooking and burning in stoves and open grates.
3. Advocate the installation of central heating plants, especially in the smaller towns where the municipalities own and operate steam driven plants for electric lighting and now waste the exhaust steam from the engines, for raising steam for the operation of plants of this type, the cheapest grades of bituminous coal can be advantageously utilized, smoke nuisance can be abated by use of properly designed furnaces and mechanical stokers. At North Battleford, Sask., a plant of this type is being successfully operated with attractive economic results. Central heating has also been in use for a long time in connection with groups of isolated buildings at our large hospitals and universities.
4. For house heating where hot water furnaces of the ordinary type are installed, now fired with American anthracite coal, metallurgical coke, the product of modern by-product ovens, can be used with results equal if not superior to those now obtained from anthracite coal. Coke is free from poisonous gases, contains less ash and is smokeless. In producing coke of this description the resultant gases and by-products have a great commercial value tending to reduce the price of the coke fuel to practically the same cost as the delivered raw bituminous coal. The sulphate of ammonia for fertilizing, tar for road binder, creosote for wood preservation and benzol to replace gasoline as a motor spirit.
5. Encourage importation of high grade anthracite coal from Wales, having superior analysis to any American anthracite sold in this country, properly manufactured "briquettes," "stovoids" or "ovoids" made from Welsh anthracite coal dust and brise—all of which should be delivered to consumers at a lower price per ton than is now charged for American hard coal and can be satisfactorily used in ordinary house furnaces.
6. An exhaustive study as to the economic possibility of bringing N.W. coal further east than at present should be made and experiments in briquetting lignites should be continued.
7. Consumers should be instructed in the economic method of firing house furnaces—in many instances 75 per cent of the caloric value of the fuel is wasted by improper firing, this by following proper method can be reduced to 25 per cent. See report on the subject from American Society of Mechanical Engineers who have made it a special study.