

decreased. While of course it is possible to materially decrease the percentage of sulphur by crushing and washing the coal, it is the ambition of every mine manager to work a coal seam which can be charged into the coke ovens without preliminary treatment. While this point may not yet be actually reached in the Phalen seam, it is gratifying to notice that the lowering of the percentage of sulphur is rapidly reaching this desirable point. The following average of nearly two hundred analyses of this seam in the lower levels of the various workings will show approximately its present ash and sulphur contents:—

Average.	Per cent.
Ash	3.92
Sulphur81

The ash varying from 2.95 to 5.20, and the sulphur from .8 to .93. These results compare more than favorably with the percentages of the corresponding impurities met in the standard American coking coals, and warrant the presumption that in Cape Breton, now that the sulphur question is removed, there are available unlimited quantities of the highest grade of coking coal.

The importance of the possession of a store of such high grade coal is at once seen on reading an editorial in a late number of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, New York, which states that parts of the great Pittsburg coking seam show signs of partial exhaustion, and that leading operators in the coke trade are turning their attention to the acquisition of coal lands in Virginia as containing the next best available coal for coke making.