

FRANCIS W. GRAY, Assistant to the Vice-President of the British Empire Steel Corporation, Sydney, N.S., called and examined.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Have you seen Mr. Lucas since he gave evidence here?—A. No, not recently.

Q. We called you, as representing one of the chief sources of supply of Canadian coal, largely on two points: if there was an increased demand in the St. Lawrence how far could Nova Scotia respond to it; and secondly, the possibility of the manufacture of coke to take the place of coal?—A. I think there would be no difficulty at all in Nova Scotia supplying all the coal that Quebec, at least, and probably Ontario, would need, in the way of coke as an equivalent for anthracite. I might say that I have used Sydney coke all winter at Ste. Ann's.

Q. What was your experience?—A. Well, I would rather have it—much rather—than anthracite. It is less trouble; it is less expense. I was away from home all winter, and my boy, who is only fifteen, managed the furnace most all winter. It was a cold winter, and we have an exposed house, a big house, and we had no trouble at all, no ashes, far less trouble.

Q. You have been in that house more than one winter?—A. I have been there five winters.

Q. Could you give us anything as to the quantity, as compared with your burning anthracite?—A. I would say, roughly, about ton for ton. It is a little bulkier than anthracite.

Q. But allowing for that, taking actual weight?—A. Yes. I experimented a little in the early part of the season: I didn't know whether the coke would be quite satisfactory alone, and I got some Welsh anthracite. It was good Welsh anthracite, and very slacky, and I threw it in among the coke. It disappeared. It made a very nice fire, but I think the coke is just as well alone.

Q. When properly handled?—A. Yes.

Q. Your impression would be, then, that ton for ton, at an equivalent price, you as an ordinary consumer—not as belonging to the British Empire Corporation—would quite as soon have coke?—A. I would much rather.

Q. Less trouble?—A. If I had to live there again I would never use anthracite any more if I could get domestic coke.

Q. Would you pay any premium for domestic coke?—A. No, because I would expect to get it for less price than the anthracite.

Q. But I mean if you could get coke at a premium would it have any advantages that would induce you?—A. Yes, I think I would pay more for it. Of course anthracite varies. Some anthracite will run, I suppose, 30 per cent ash; it depends on the quality.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shiels, you would say that was from the independent companies?

Mr. SHIELS: Yes, that is pretty high.

The WITNESS: Good anthracite will run from 15 to 17 per cent ash, normally.

Mr. SHIELS: I have an analysis here (handing to Chairman).

*By the Chairman:*

Q. It has been represented to us that the desirable way of producing coke to supply Ontario and Quebec would be to do it in Ontario and Quebec at the larger places, rather than making it at the mines.—A. Distinctly so.

Q. That the other would be practically impossible?—A. Yes, it would.

[Mr. F. W. Gray.]