

FORT STEELE PROSPECTOR.

What is the situation to-day that exists between the consumers of coal and coke, and those that supply the demand for the same, "the Crow's Nest Coal Company"?

Before the opening of the Crow's Nest coal fields, the consumers of coke were paying from \$14 to \$16 per ton for coke; to-day we find they are being supplied with a better class of coke at less than \$7.00 per ton.

The Fernie collieries are producing 1400 tons of coal daily. This output will be increased monthly at the rate of ten per cent.

West Kootenay to-day requires 500 tons of coal and 300 tons of coke. A question of veracity arises between the Coal Company and the C. P. R., one claiming lack of transportation, the other lack of coal; "which is right?"

The demand is 500 tons of coal and 300 tons of coke. Seven tons of coal will make 4 1-2 tons of coke, hence it will take 500 tons of coal to make 300 tons of coke. The total demand of coal being 1,000 tons daily, leaving a surplus at the mine of 400 tons.

We find from the above figures that the Coal Company is able to supply the present demand for home consumption, and still retain a surplus of 400 tons, which in a month would increase to 12,000 tons, in a year to 144,000 tons. With this large surplus, and a monthly increase of ten per cent., 140 tons per day, the natural inquiry would be, "What are they going to do with the surplus?"