

The Smoke Nuisance*

BY

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INTRODUCTION

NEITHER for those who live in, nor for those who ever visit an industrial centre where large quantities of bituminous coal are burned, is a definition of the smoke nuisance necessary. Its effects are apparent on every side in such cities and no man, woman or child escapes them. The smoke nuisance is truly a modern plague.

It is, however, only within the last few years that any serious study has been given to the various phases of the problem, with the possible exception of the engineering phase. A remarkable change, however, has taken place. There is not a city in the country that has the smoke nuisance in an acute form, that is not aroused to the seriousness of the problem and that is not attempting in one way or another to abate it.

Investigation in Pittsburgh

It is rather appropriate that the city of Pittsburgh, with its sobriquet 'The Smoky City,' should be held up as illustrating most forcibly the evils of the smoke nuisance, and that it should be the centre of an investigation which claims for itself comprehensiveness of plan, if no other merit. It leaves no phase of the smoke problem untouched. The donor of the fund for this investigation was actuated by the belief that a thorough investigation would reveal not only the nature, extent, and precise cause of the smoke nuisance, but also the remedies that would make its abolition possible and practicable. To carry out this investigation, he placed \$40,000 in the hands of Professor Robert Kennedy Duncan, Director of the Department of Industrial Research of the University of Pittsburgh.

In this paper we will endeavour to present the various phases of the problem as they have come to our notice in our work in the smoke investigation.

* For a comprehensive scientific treatment of this subject the reader is referred to *Smoke, A Study of Town Air*, by Julius B. Cohen and Arthur G. Ruston, both of the University of Leeds; London, Edward Arnold, 1912.