

THE PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINION COAL COMPANY.

Moreover, the quantity of gas recovered from the furnaces is greater than is needed for the feeding of the engines, and the surplus is used to heat soaking pits and heating furnaces for the manipulation of raw steel into higher forms. This means a material reduction in the consumption of coal.

Another factor that is of growing prominence is the use of gas engines of smaller power for many uses, especially in small power plants, and in cities where the room occupied, the dangers attending, and the cost of installing steam plants require consideration. It is demonstrated that there is not yet a gas engine that, without grave troubles, will operate successfully under gas made from bituminous coal; but this is being carefully investigated, and a process of making, rather of washing, such gas so that it can be so used is now claimed, and if it is not yet achieved, it doubtless will be. The field is so broad, and the reward promised so remunerative, that it is not guessing to predict that the time will come when the desired results will be obtained.

What does it portend to the coal trade? Much, in the opinion of those who have given it serious consideration. Among other things, it portends that those coals that are high in volatile constituents will bring a higher price in the future than they do now; that coals low in volatile, and particularly if non-coking, will have a limited field for usefulness. Even in domestic consumption, gas is encroaching on raw coal consumption in populous communities. At the same time inventors are spending nights and days seeking to devise better appliances of the use of gas, to reduce the cost of fueling and in hope of expanding the field of use for their devices. Stove manufacturing companies are spending large sums in this direction.

Gas engines are largely in use wherever natural gas is obtainable, and also where gas made from an anthracite coal culm is available. Anthracite culm makes such a gas, and at so low a cost that its extended manufacture is indicated, among other lines of evolution.—(The Coal Trade Journal.)

THE GREAT U. M. W.

As a part of the plan for the upbuilding of the union in the Anthracite region, the U. M. W. announces a reduction in the initiation fee, effective during the ensuing months of the summer and fall. The regular fee is \$10, but during the current month applicants for membership will be admitted upon the payment of \$2. This rate will be increased 50 cents a month till December, when the full rate will be restored. It is estimated that not over 20,000 or 25,000 of the Anthracite mine workers are at present members of the union in good standing, with all dues paid up. To effect an increase in membership to the 1906 basis, preliminary to negotiating with the operators next spring, unusual efforts will be made. Organizers are being sent to the field, and it is anticipated that President Lewis will take a personal part in the movement this summer.

They had last month a strike in the greatly heralded 'Land without strikes' New Zealand. We thought it might come to that. The masters have been taking a leaf out of the men's book.

The following sketch appears in The Coal Trade Journal of the 8th. inst. :—

"Mr. James Ross is president of the Dominion Coal Co., Ltd., the largest coal producer in Canada, and one of the largest in the world. The output this year will be over 4,000,000 tons. The company employs 8,000 men, owns large areas of coal lands in Nova Scotia, and controls its own railroad and steamship transportation, with modern terminals in the principal Canadian cities.

Mr. Ross was born in Scotland in 1848, where he was educated as a civil engineer, and served for a time on the Highland R'y. When a young man he emigrated to New York and engaged in railroad construction on the Ulster and Delaware and Lake Shore R'y's. When in Ulster County, Mr. Ross married Miss Kerr, of Kingston, N. Y., and has one son, J. K. L. Ross, the commercial manager of the Dominion Coal Co., Ltd. Mr. Ross moved to Canada in 1873, and since then has been identified with some of the largest and most important railroad and industrial enterprises. He was general manager of construction for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and carried through successfully the most difficult sections in the rocky mountains. He also built the Calgary & Edmonton, and Qu'Appelle & Long Lake Rys. in Alberta and Manitoba. He was largely interested in electrifying the street railways of Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg, and is president of the street railway company of St. John, N. B. Subsequently Mr. Ross went to England, where he acquired franchises and organized the City of Birmingham Tramways Co. Ltd., of which he became president. Mr. Ross was for several years president of the Mexican Light Heat and Power Co., a corporation controlling valuable franchises in the City of Mexico. He is a director of the Bank of Montreal, president of the Dominion Bridge Co., director of the Royal Trust Co., director of the Laurentide Pulp & Paper Co., and other industrial companies.

From 1902 to 1904 Mr. Ross was president of both the Dominion Coal and Dominion Steel Co's., and during that period he rescued the Steel company from serious difficulties by financial support and the adoption of a policy for financing the company to complete construction of the plant.

As president of the Dominion Coal Co. Ltd., Mr. Ross takes the keenest interest in all the details of its operations and large business affairs, and, to more fully devote his time to this work, he has withdrawn from the Mexican and other corporations. He makes frequent visits to Sydney, N. S., in his large ocean-going yacht 'Sheelah', on which he is at present cruising on the coast of Norway. He is a forceful, energetic president, and has surrounded himself with a loyal, enthusiastic, efficient staff, all of whom, like himself, are devoted to the interests of the great coal company and have unbounded confidence in its future.

Although one of the most active men in the financial and industrial life of Canada, Mr. Ross takes a keen interest in the educational and other public institutions of Montreal. He is a governor of McGill University, and also one of the governors of the Royal Victoria Hospital. Mr. Ross founded and endowed the Ross Memorial Hospital, in memory of his mother, at Lindsay, Ont. In Montreal, where he resides, Mr. Ross has one of the largest and best collections of pictures and art treasures in Canada. His summer residence is at Sydney, N. S.