

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY, 11th April, 1923.

The Select Standing Committee on Mines and Minerals met at 11 a.m.

The Chairman, Mr. Carroll, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, gentlemen, we have a quorum, so we may as well start. The Witness for this morning is Mr. F. L. Wanklyn, whom we will now call.

F. L. WANKLYN, called and sworn:

By the Chairman:

Q. What is your occupation at the present time?—A. I am General Executive Officer of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. Have you anything to do with the distribution of fuel in the Province of Quebec?—A. Yes, sir, at the request of the Provincial Government of the Province of Quebec I was appointed one of the two members representing the Province on this Central Fuel Advisory Committee of Ottawa.

Q. Would you tell us briefly, Mr. Wanklyn, what information you have as to the coal condition in Canada, and your connection with the coal industry in Canada?—A. For several years I was Vice President of the Dominion Coal Company, and I relinquished that position about 14 years ago. Prior to that time, I used to spend a considerable portion of the year in Cape Breton and became fairly intimate with the operations of the industry in that district. As you know, they have very extensive coal mines and mine a very large quantity of coal.

Q. You are a coal mining engineer?—A. No, I am a mechanical engineer, but what I have learned of coal mining was learned down there in Cape Breton.

Q. In a practical way?—A. Yes, in a practical way; I used to visit the mines.

Q. You have some suggestions to make as outlined in a little memorandum you handed me this morning?—A. Yes.

Q. Perhaps you might read them?—A. Will you mind having the Secretary read them?

The Clerk:

National Fuel Enquiry

F. L. Wanklyn was appointed by Quebec Government August 17th, 1922, as one of the two representatives of the Province on the Federal Advisory Fuel Committee, the other representative was Mr. A. Picard, of Quebec City.

My experience in this capacity during the past winter indicates clearly the paramount importance of finding a practical solution of the fuel question, especially as to fuel required for domestic heating that will tend, to some extent, to make consumers less dependent on source of supply from the U.S. as at present, which is uncertain when normal conditions at the mines are disturbed by strikes, etc., and is becoming increasingly expensive and of inferior quality.