

The majority of the coals of the Pictou region furnish an excellent coke coke. in the gas-retorts, if properly carbonised, as will be abundantly proven by the statements to be given below from some of the first gas-chemists of this continent. Statements have recently been published to the effect that coke from these coals is worthless. In a single case this may be warranted; in the majority of cases it is not, as from a number of the coals I have seen most excellent coke made in the gas-retorts of the Pictou works. It is true that if the heat is not properly applied, the coke cannot be properly formed, and a few of these coals will never be successfully coked, but the testimony of our first gas-chemists, such as Buist of Halifax, and the engineer of the Boston Gas works, who have used many thousand tons of the coals, is that some of them furnish good merchantable coke.

The greater number of the coals of this district will, I believe, compare favourably with those of any district of the world in regard to sulphur. A number of analyses in the first section show the sulphur-content of the different coals, which in most cases is considerably below 1.00 per cent. These determinations of sulphur may be compared with the following table, giving Sulphur. averages of determinations of sulphur in a large number of the coals of Great Britain, from the analyses given in the reports of the British Admiralty Trials: —

				Per cent.
Average of 37 samples from Wales. gave of sulphur....				1.42
"	17	"	Newcastle,	"94
"	28	"	Lancashire,	" 1.42
"	8	"	Scotland,	" 1.45
"	8	"	Derbyshire.	" 1.01

Further statements concerning the small amount of sulphur in Pictou coals, will be found in the extracts of letters from Messrs. Buist and Greenough, given below.

GAS TRIALS AT THE PICTOU GAS-WORKS.

Mr. Alex. Thompson, of the Pictou Gas-works, has used all the coals which have been worked to any considerable extent in this region, and he has been kind enough to supply me with notes of his experience, from which the following tabulation has been compiled.

Gas trials at
Pictou.

power of the gas. Thus if we suppose a gas burnt in a five-foot burner to give fifteen (15) times the amount of light furnished by one standard candle, the gas is said to have 15-candle power or to be 15-candle gas. The standard of gas in our large cities ranges from 13 to 18-candle power.