

its proportionate share of the coal mined, and it would be distributed pro rata throughout the country, but there would be a shortage. The people of Toronto and of every city and town in Ontario, would have to conserve their coal supplies and be content to keep their houses less comfortable and warm than in former winters. In fact, they even might be called upon to close up part of their houses in order to conserve heat. Further than this, they would be well advised to endeavor to secure some substitute for coal, even if the thermal values were not so great. The question of comfort could not be considered, as the supply of coal coming from the States would only suffice to prevent actual hardship and distress.

Ottawa, April 20.—At the close of the conference held here this week of coal operators, labor delegates and transportation representatives with Mr. Neale, representing the United States Fuel Administration, and Mr. C. A. Magrath, Dominion Fuel Controller, a memorandum was submitted by Mr. Magrath covering the chief developments of the conference, which lasted for a couple of days.

The memorandum contained the important statement that the United States Fuel Controller felt it his duty to inform the Canadian Fuel Controller, so that he could pass the information to the Western provinces of Canada, that the situation is as follows:—

1. That anthracite coal supplies to points in Western Canada will be very materially restricted during the present coal year.
2. Under the circumstances, it is safe to predict that no American anthracite coal will be available for shipment to points west of Winnipeg.
3. It is also proposed to restrict shipments of anthracite to Canadian lake ports during the early part of the present season.
4. That the public, both East and West, must be given to understand distinctly that conservation of coal must be practised to the utmost extent by all classes of consumers.

Mr. Magrath's memorandum said that Sir George Foster had been able to announce that the attitude of the United States Fuel Administration was that Canada would receive precisely the same treatment as the various states of the Union. The Western States had been given to understand that they must use the softer coal of the West and that the available anthracite would have to be conserved for the purpose of supplying the Eastern part of the Union and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

The Western coal operators stated their ability to increase the production of bituminous coal by 1,280,000 tons and of lignite coal by 1,225,000 tons. These increases would represent the amount of coal that could have been mined during the times the mines were idle last year due to strikes and want of railway transportation. The figures would not hold good unless the same amount of labor was available as last year, and unless the railways were able to furnish transportation required.

The operators urged that dealers and the public take a large portion of their supply during the summer months, when the railways are in a position to handle it.

The memorandum of the Nova Scotia operators stated that the production of Nova Scotia mines had been estimated at 5,950,000 tons, but the production actually attained was 5,660,000 tons. The operators reported a considerable improvement in transportation facilities, and pointed out that scarcity of labor had been the main factor in the reduction of output.

### House Discusses Fuel Problem

In the House of Commons on April 15th Mr. J. E. Armstrong of Lambton proposed a resolution urging that deposits of bituminous and anthracite coal in Canada, located in the extreme Eastern and Western portions of the Dominion be more thoroughly utilized, that peat and lignite deposits be developed, and that the Government make a special effort to this end. Development of Canadian coal areas, he said would materially increase production.

Turning to natural gas, Mr. Armstrong stated that the waste of this valuable product in the West was enormous. He had, he said, written to the Interior Department protesting against the waste. Natural gas, he said, was the cleanest and best of fuel, and was used extensively in the United States for the manufacture of gasoline. The Government ought to take action to conserve the gas supply of the Dominion.

Powdered coal was another product which the speaker thought could be successfully used in Canada. It has been a success in Brazil, and also in the United States.

The development of Canada's great water powers for the production of electricity was urged by Mr. Armstrong. He recommended the appointment of a Minister whose duties should consist in developing water power for light, heat and power. In the Dominion, he said, 17,000,000 horsepower was undeveloped. The peat deposits of Canada should also receive the attention of the Government.

In closing, Mr. Armstrong emphasized the seriousness of the fuel situation, and insisted that drastic measures must be enforced by the Government. At present the Dominion was absolutely dependent on the United States, and if that country should be unable to supply our demands we would find ourselves in a bad situation.

W. D. Cowan, Regina, wanted to know what the Government was going to do in the line of developing the Saskatchewan coal fields. He was pleased to hear from the previous speaker that an Order-in-Council providing for an expenditure of \$400,000 on the Saskatchewan coal fields had been passed.

In Saskatchewan, said Mr. Cowan, while these coal fields were only producing 200,000 tons a year, people were importing Pennsylvania coal. He argued that Saskatchewan was not a legitimate market for coal from Pennsylvania.

H. C. Hocken (Toronto West) spoke of the suffering in Ontario last winter owing to lack of fuel. If Western coal areas were developed, Pennsylvania coal now going to the West might be diverted to Ontario, and material improvement thus effected. Mr. Hocken urged the development of water powers with a view to the operation of railways by electricity and the saving of coal.

The Minister of Mines dealt briefly with the efforts of the Government to develop peat production in Canada. About 140,000 acres of peat bogs had been mapped out. He referred to the experiments which had been made by the Government at Alfred, Ontario, saying that \$18,000 had been spent there in experimental work. In 1910 the operations at Alfred were discontinued. A private corporation which subsequently failed, taking over the plant. Owing to the fuel shortage last year, the Government had resumed experiments at Alfred, and these were now being conducted in co-operation with Provincial Government of Ontario. In