

By the Hon. Mr. Webster:

Q. Is there any difficulty about your fuel staying in overnight?—A. Absolutely no. I had it suggested to me last fall to put this on the market in the Maritime provinces. The Government reports show approximately 150,000 tons of anthracite imported per year. When I came to look into the matter I was really surprised that people living in proximity to coal mines had always been using anthracite coal. Anthracite coal was selling in Halifax for about \$23, American or Welsh. I had one case, in a schoolhouse in Yarmouth which was heated by the coke up to 80 degrees—I am quoting the janitor now—very much more quickly than he had ever been able to do with anthracite. The fire was banked at four o'clock on Friday afternoon and was not looked at again until about ten o'clock on Saturday morning, and the school was well heated and there was a splendid fire still in the furnace. I had made no demonstration myself, any more than just to instruct him with regard to the thickness of the bed and the control of the drafts. I may say that experience has been repeated time and again all over Nova Scotia, and the extent to which we could market this was governed entirely by the amount we had available; that is, what we did not need for our metallurgical operations.

By the Chairman:

Q. Did you push it?—A. We did for a time, when we could spare it from our metallurgical operations.

Q. At what price did you sell it?—A. That was sold at \$8 at our plant.

Q. My men told me that it burnt out the grates.—A. So far as Sydney is concerned, we made no demonstrations there until a year ago last fall. Our company has always had a booth at the local exhibition, usually confined to "safety first" etc., and I suggested at that time that we put in an exhibit with the idea of going ahead on this coke, and we got a baseburner and a Thompson hot water furnace—a small Thompson hot water furnace, and maintained for three days and three nights a continuous fire in each one. We did not clean out a pound of ashes or take out any clinkers, and we maintained the fire without any trouble. We banked it at perhaps half past ten at night and opened the furnace in the presence of witnesses at half past nine the next morning, to show that the fire was not tampered with. Just for advertising purposes I had a little card printed. I will give you a copy. There has always been an unfounded prejudice against coke because it burnt the grates out. Frankly it will if you let it. Coke is primarily made as a metallurgical fuel to smelt iron, and it is simply a question of controlling that possible temperature, and the control is very, very easy. When I came to put it on the market I got some cards printed and handed them to the dealers, that they might send a copy with each trial lot to the consumer, (copies handed to Chairman and other members of Committee).

The CHAIRMAN: If I might interrupt you, Mr. Lucas,—I think there is one point there which Mr. Lucas has put extremely well. After saying that it is made from coal mined in Nova Scotia, he goes on: "The manufacture of one ton of coke produces enough gas for cooking for the average family for a year. Enough fertilizer for a large garden. Enough tar to spray the road in front of your lot. Enough motor fuel to drive your car fifty miles." It seems to me that that is a very succinct statement of what it will do.

The WITNESS: I would say generally, sir,—and I am quite willing to stay here and let you question me as long as you like, until I convince you of what I state—that I regard the installation of by-product coke plants in, say, Montreal and Toronto, as one of the greatest economic assets that this country could have. I mention those two places in the meantime. It might be extended later. It would be an asset in the industrial development and building up of those areas which would be practically equal to what happened in either because of the introduction of cheap hydro-electric power.

[Mr. Frank E. Lucas.]