

Louisburg Coal Co. was shipping coal at this port, we had steamships here for bunker coal, although these two winters were very severe. Sailing vessels arrive and depart every week during the winter months, most of them belong to the United States."

The practical value of Louisburg being thus made clear, a few words may be written about the quality of the coal which the Dominion Coal Co. intend to ship. Fortunately, there are few coalfields within reach of British or foreign steamships of which more striking testimony has been collected. Much of the evidence to the contrary can generally be traced to parties interested in keeping the Canadian fuel in the background, and in some instances they have been disowned by the compilers, who admit that they prepared the tests from insufficient data. It must then be clear that Cape Breton coal should be considered more fully by the owners of the ever increasing number of steamships which pass up and down the American coast. As early as 1860 the Director of Naval Construction at Brest reported to the Minister of Marine "that the steam power of Sydney coal is little inferior to that of Cardiff," and that of "hurtful sulphur there is but 1.24 per cent., or less than the average in 37 Welsh, 28 Lancashire and 8 Scotch coals."

The following are reports upon one of the best coals shipped from the collieries, now being developed for cheap and rapid coaling purposes:—

Extract from report of Engineer, H. M. S. *Spartan*.

"Very good for generating steam quickly, 3 per cent. of ash, 6 per cent. of clinker, and large quantities of light brown and black smoke."

Trial of same coal in furnaces of steamships plying on the Amazon River. Coal when shipped for consumption by vessels engaged in trading up and down the river is delivered at Para.

"Trial has taken place on board the steamers *Morajo* and *Javary*, and, after a comparison with the others existing in our depot, it shows an economy of 6 per cent. as per Engineer's Journal, and the advantages of keeping the fires clean and producing few ashes."

Certificate from Anglo-American Telegraph Co., dated Halifax, 1st May, 1881—

"This is to certify that the Anglo-American Telegraph Company's cable repairing ship *Minia* has been coaled three times from the mines. I have found it to be the best steaming coal I have used this side of the Atlantic. It is clean, very free from clinker, and easy on furnace bars. I may state I have run thirty-six hours without cleaning fires."

Certificate from J. Swinburne, S. S. *Pouyer Quertier*.

London, January 7th, 1880.

"The coal supplied at Louisburg has given great satisfaction. We found it very quick to raise steam, while the clinkers from it are of no consequence and easily removed from the bars. The collection of dirt and soot in the

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