

Q. There are other dealers in Toronto in that same position—that have a close connection with some large producer?—A. I believe so. All those old-line companies—there are seven of them, I believe—they have all had their customers for years.

Q. Your experience would be that the coal was as good and as carefully prepared this winter from the old-line companies as usual?—A. Yes, absolutely.

Q. We have had evidence from a good many people that coal as we got it this year was inferior?—A. That applies to the independent coal; I don't believe it applies to the old line, the old standard companies' coal.

*By Hon. Mr. Webster:*

Q. Is your coal largely brought in by rail, or water?—A. Practically all by rail.

Q. About what was the quantity of domestic coal or anthracite used in Toronto, and also in the province of Ontario? Have you those figures?—A. No, I have not. There are statistics on that.

Q. How many coal merchants have you in Toronto?—A. I would hesitate about guessing at that. A great many.

Q. Over 100—a larger number than Montreal?—A. I would not like to say. Of course this last few months, in the winter, there was any amount of dealers sprang up that would buy a car and put it on a siding.

*By Hon. Mr. Laird:*

Q. What is your experience in regard to deterioration as between railway weights and delivery weights?—A. Well, there is quite a loss. A year ago last January I had a whole train weighed, a train of our coal coming in, and even taking the railroad weights there was a loss.

Q. Sometimes it would be over, and sometimes under?—A. On the average there was a loss, taking the railroad weights.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Notwithstanding the amount of ice, and so on, that had come into the car on the journey?—A. I will admit that we took a time when there had been very little.

Q. How do you provide for that shortage?—A. It has to be considered in the price.

*By Hon. Mr. Webster:*

Q. Have you any suggestions to give the Committee that might reduce the price on domestic fuel for the consumer?—A. Well, I don't know that I can think of anything.

Q. Are there any cheap substitutes that would make satisfactory domestic fuel, that would work out to better advantage?—A. I don't know of anything. There are lots of substitutes, which are very satisfactory as substitutes.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. I think you said you used some coke?—A. Yes.

Q. How did you find it?—A. Well, it was very satisfactory; I really would place it next to anthracite, as our experience, for a domestic fuel.

Q. Where did you get it? Was that American?—A. Yes, a lot of it came from the Connellsville district, and some of it was by-product coke. There is quite a difference in coke. I am not an expert in this at all.

Q. But you bought not only the beehive coke, that would be the common, but by-product coke?—A. Yes.

Q. And your customers were satisfied?—A. Yes, as a substitute it was quite satisfactory.