

APPENDIX No. 1

H. E. COLL.—In the Vale coal mine, in Pictou, oil has been dripping from the roof. This has been going on constantly for some years. It appears to be of good quality.

H. FLETCHER.—It is probably a product of distillation by pressure, or by heat, or both.

H. PIERS.—I understand that where the oil occurs at the Vale colliery there are 197 feet of shale with hard sandstone overlying it, and there is also a seam of coal above.

J. A. JOHNSON.—The Acadia Coal Company and other miners should be producing oil and sulphate of ammonia when Scotchmen can get such results from their shale, and we have such quantities of shale in Pictou of better quality. I am told that an up-to-date plant to treat this shale would cost \$500,000. That there is no duty on oil going to Scotland and that companies there can compete successfully with the Standard Oil Company, makes it difficult to see why shale in Nova Scotia, which is about four times as rich as that of Scotland, cannot be worked at a profit, if the crude oil were not refined.