

FRANK E. LUCAS, Esquire, Economy and Fuel Engineer, British Empire Steel Corporation, Sydney, N.S., appeared as a witness before the Committee and testified as follows:

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Mr. Lucas, have you seen our evidence?—A. Yes, sir, I have.

Q. And you were here yesterday when Mr. Blauvelt gave evidence?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. As time is short, will you tell us what we ought to know and so far as possible avoid going over any ground that Mr. Blauvelt covered. And we have heard from other sources in reference to coke.—A. I assume that the object of this Committee is two-fold: primarily, to find a successful substitute in order to prevent or offset the importation of American anthracite; and, secondly, in so far as possible, to make Canada entirely self-supporting from her own fuel resources. I would say generally that I entirely agree with and endorse every statement made by Mr. Blauvelt yesterday with respect to coke oven plants and the value of the products.

The CHAIRMAN: I may tell you, as Mr. Lucas is modest, that he has had experience and ever-growing responsibility in connection with the coke plant at Sydney in the last twenty years, is it not?

*By the Chairman:*

Q. How much coke do you turn out there?—A. Our average output of coke would run—well, at the present time we are running at the rate of about 350,000 tons of coke per year.

Q. About 1,000 tons a day?—A. About 1,000 tons per day.—No; at the present time we are doing a little better than that.

Q. That is near enough. It is a large property and there are large batteries of ovens.

*By the Hon. Mr. Webster:*

Q. How much of that coke do you use for your own manufacturing purposes?—A. Practically all of it. For a number of years past we have supplied our employees, who formerly purchased anthracite coal, a certain amount of what was known as the coke breeze; that is, the coke under three quarters of an inch. We did that to protect them about 1914, when hard coal practically stopped coming into that town. There never was very much of it; there were perhaps one or two schooner loads in a year.

Q. Why was that brought in?—A. It was brought in to take care of what really amounts in my opinion to a crying need for anthracite coal or a substitute in this country; that is, for the poorer people, who own their houses or have some individual cottages and cannot afford to put in a hot water or steam heating system. In order to get something that will keep their houses reasonably heated and at the same time stay in overnight, they must have a non-caking and a very low volatile fuel. So far, practically the only thing they have known about has been anthracite coal, which is usually fed into a stove containing a magazine at the top.—

*By the Chairman:*

Q. A baseburner?—A. They put in a scuttleful of coal and that maintains heat overnight.

[Mr. Frank E. Lucas.]