Effect of Sulphur dioxide on the surrounding country.

I understand that the proposed plant is to be located near Windmill Point on Ile Perrot, a place which is over three miles from Beauharnois, over four miles from Ste. Anne de Bellevue, six miles from Chateauguay and ten miles from Lachine. In view of the direction of the prevailing winds, the place has been well chosen, as the gases liberated at the plant will usually be spread over the large expanse of Lake St. Louis.

A comparison can be made between the amount of sulphur that may be liberated from the proposed plant and the amount that is set free in the burning of coal in and near Montreal.

I understand that the coal that is burned in the industrial plants in Montreal contains on an average about 2½ per-cent of sulphur. Assuming that one fifth of this remains in the cinders, the combustion of four hundred tons of coal would be needed to set free the eight tons of sulphur which I have considered may be liberated by the proposed plant. In comparison with this, the consumption of soft coal in the district of Ste. Anne de Bellevue is about thirty tons per day,# the use of coal in some steel works in Montreal is about one hundred tons a day and the whole consumption of bituminous coal in Montreal, exclusive of that used by the railways and shipping, amounts to about four thousand tons a day. In this connection it must not be forgotten that much of the nuisance resulting from the combustion of coal is caused by the smoke and other products of combustion, and that these will be almost entirely absent from the gases turned out by the proposed plant.

The effect of sulphur dioxide on vegetation has been studied very elaborately in connection with legal claims for damages that have been made against smelting companies which turn out large amounts of this gas. I have consulted particularly the Report of the Selby Smelter Commission which was published in 1915, and the Report of the Trail Smelter Smoke Investigation, dated January 1930, which was presented at a public hearing in Washington but has not yet been published. I have also consulted, informally, an official of the National Research Council of Canada who has been in close touch with the latter investigation.

This is the average daily consumption during the year, and, as part of this coal would be used for heating during the winter, the consumption of coal during the period of growth may be decidedly less.