

Q. In what respect? We have had evidence here that differed from that?—
A. Yes, I suppose. Well, that is our experience.

By Hon. Mr. Laird:

Q. Was it because the people in Toronto were in the habit of using anthracite coal, and not in the habit of using Alberta coal?—A. That may have had something to do with it, but the price, you see. Had we been able to get it, or had we been able to get a hope of getting a price where we could lay it down and sell it, we would have gone into it. In fact, we have connections now in Alberta.

Q. But aside from the question of price; on the merits?—A. Well, it does not compare. We tried it. We gave it physical tests. We tried it in our own furnaces, our own men, and we had analyses on the different coals, and that was the conclusion we came to—that it was not practical.

By Hon. Mr. Webster:

Q. Would you just develop the thought you started out upon—of substitutes?—A. We went into the coke; we handle quite a bit of coke.

Q. From where?—A. We bought wherever we could. We bought a lot of what they call heating coke, 48-hour coke.

Q. What was your experience with that?—A. Coke is quite a satisfactory substitute. We had Pocahontas coal, handled quite a lot of Pocahontas.

Q. That you turn over for domestics?—A. Yes.

Q. Even though last year was an abnormal year all over the country, was there any suffering you knew of in Toronto from the want of getting coal or the substitutes?—A. I don't think so.

Q. You can always depend on substitutes to take care of any distress that might arise through the want of getting American coal?—A. I think so. Our experience was that the winter of 1917-18, the shortage that occurred then, was more inconvenience to the public than last year, when the real shortage was greater.

Q. Have you difficulty in getting coal from the standard companies that Mr. Robertson spoke of, or can you get all you require from standard companies?—A. We have had very little difficulty, only in cases in a year like this last year was.

Q. In normal times you can get a fuel supply?—A. Yes.

Q. Does that apply to the other merchants of Toronto?—A. I believe so.

By Hon. Mr. Laird:

Q. Do you find the quality of anthracite coal recently equal to the coal that formerly was brought in?—A. The old-line coal, I doubt if the quality was very much better—not in my time, which is fifteen years in Toronto. Naturally, independent coal, there would be a certain tendency to take advantage of the situation and crowd something on the market that was not just up to the mark.

By Hon. Mr. Webster:

Q. Do you confine your importations largely to one standard company?—
A. Yes, to one, although of course we buy wherever we can. Take a year like this last winter, we bought from whatever source we could get it.

Q. In normal times you have no difficulty in getting all the anthracite coal you want?—A. Not in normal times.

By the Chairman:

Q. You have a close connection with one?—A. Yes.

[Mr. Thomas C. Shiels.]