

how such a monopoly works, and therefore gather some idea of what may result when the association fully develops and its rules are enforced by the Legislature. When the Toronto association was only a few months old, and standing alone, it persuaded the Toronto city council to embody some of its ideas in by-laws, and no person was permitted to commence or carry on the business of master plumber or do a job of plumbing work on his own account, except he passed the Toronto Board of Plumbers' examinations and had an established place of business. The board consisted of Joseph Wright, W. J. Burroughs, master plumbers, and E. J. Lennox, city architect. This body has also the privilege of saying who was qualified to fill the appointment of inspector of plumbers' work and enforce the city by-laws. It will be obvious that such extensive powers in the hands of business men require the most judicious and conscientious exercise, and that even then friction would be occasioned. The journeymen were to be examined also, but a strike made it impossible to carry this out and the idea was dropped.

Some difficulty has been experienced in enforcing the Toronto by-law, and in some cases the city has failed to secure convictions under it, though there was no doubt that the defendants were not licensed and were carrying on business as plumbers. We find by the reports of the Quebec meeting that the difficulty in compelling all plumbers to enter the combination is about to be overcome in another way. The manufacturers of plumbers', gas and steam fitters' supplies must act in harmony with the Master Plumbers' Association of Canada and agree to sell goods at manufacturers' prices only to members of the association. This will practically prevent anyone doing business who can not or will not join the combine, because he will not be able to secure the necessary material at trade prices. We may also expect that in time the license fee will be advanced to an amount that will prevent anyone but a capitalist paying it, and thus prevent those who have served an apprenticeship, but are not fortunate enough to possess the money to pay the license fee, from taking the advantage of their years of education and work. We have also observed the great difference in the two tenders for the plumbing and heating of the new city hall, Toronto, the one being made at the time the other contracts were let, and the other accepted a few years after, when the Toronto Master Plumbers' Association had had time to get its members into line.

#### WHO IS "EXPERT"?

I notice in your last issue that John McDougall, the agent for the International Sewage Purification Co., demands my name. It is Henry Lee McKinstry, born at Armagh, Ireland, my father being a land owner there and medical health officer for the district. I, myself, was formerly a traveler in England representing a wine manufacturing syndicate, and I came to Canada a few years ago with the intention of learning the habits and customs of the people, and the value of the land, the products, minerals, etc. I hear and secure considerable information on many important subjects and know probably more about sewage purification and the international system than Mr. McDougall does himself, and I am prepared to prove every word spoken in the letter complained of, and to discuss sewage purification with Mr. McDougall in any public hall, after November 15th, when I propose to make a long stay in Toronto, and allow the audience to say by show of hands whether Mr. McDougall or myself is the most competent person to judge such an important subject. I have no interest in any sewage scheme in this or any other country, or desire to interfere with any private or public business, nor am I acquainted with Mr. McDougall or any other agent, but when I became acquainted with all the facts of Mr. McDougall's offer made to a special committee of Toronto City Council on

March 17 last, I thought I was only doing right, with the experience and knowledge I possessed of the subject in England, to say a few words that would help the public to judge intelligently for themselves in Canada. Being a British subject and living until lately on the tight little islands of England and Ireland, I naturally supposed that the general public of a British colony possessed certain lawful rights of criticism, and that when a drummer made an offer to sell goods to the representatives who had to pay the bills, that the public or any single individual might point to errors, or discuss the value of goods or systems offered to the public without being threatened by the vendors or their agents. I suppose Mr. McDougall will bring Chas. G. Horetzsky, C. E., to task in the same way for the letters he has published in the London, Ont., Advertiser on the same subject. I think it is now time that Mr. McDougall and his principals proved at least one-tenth of the statements which they make in their printed pamphlets about the efficiency of their systems now working in Great Britain, and any Canadian municipality that wishes to protect the health and interests of its constituents should at least have wisdom enough to send an experienced and disinterested person to England to investigate a system upon which it proposes to spend thousands of dollars. It is now in Mr. McDougall's power to prove to the public and the press whether he or I am the biggest coward, and whether the system which he is pushing is an efficient purification system or a financial success.

H. L. MCKINSTRY.

Toronto, July 20th.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND COAL.

Very favorable accounts have been received from the new coal mines near Grand Lake, Newfoundland, now being opened and worked under the Reid contract. Extensive borings have been made on three of the seams resulting most satisfactorily, the quality of the coal being excellent, and the thickness of the seams increasing. The Imperial Institute, in a circular recently issued, furnishes the results of an analysis of this coal. A small sample, about three ounces, had been sent to the institute from the 6 feet seam for analysis. The circular states that the coal was found to be bright, clean and tough, presenting an irregular conchoidal fracture, and the following results on analysis:—

Fixed carbon .....	47 19
Ash .....	10 82
Coke .....	58 01
Volatile matter.....	41 99
Sulphur .....	735
Caloric value .....	6347

The sample caked fairly well, furnishing a coherent, somewhat brittle, coke. The ash is nearly white. This will probably prove to be a good heating coal of fair quality, containing very little sulphur, though rather a low proportion of fixed carbon.

Number two sample from 2½ feet seam weighed about two ounces. The coal was dull, rather brittle, but clean and not dusty. The analytical results were as follows:—

Fixed carbon .....	49 32
Ash .....	13 05
Coke .....	62 37
Volatile matter.....	37 63
Sulphur .....	62
Caloric value.....	6435

The coal burns slowly and cakes fairly well, furnishing a somewhat brittle coke. The ash is gray. This coal closely resembled the former sample. It must be remembered, too, that these are almost surface specimens and the coal is likely to improve as the mine deepens. Should the coal seams develop according to expectations it is needless to say that the benefit to the colony will be immense.

—In a lecture before the London Chamber of Commerce, Wm. Ogilvie spoke very plainly about the way in which his name and his reports had been used by promoters for their own ends. He said: "My name has been quoted pretty prominently in a great many prospectuses, and I have been made to say a good many things that I have never said at all. I simply say this as a warning: Do not pay the slightest attention to any extracts from my reports. They may be correct quotations, but they are often misleading. I have no interest in any company; my sole object is to benefit my own country, Canada, and the Empire of which it is a portion."