

"You do not then consider the rates paid by the operators or the price they charge for their coal excessive?"

"We are mainly concerned as to the rates, and we certainly think that these are not too high. People forget that for perhaps thirty-five years the miners were not making an adequate wage, the risks involved in their occupation taken into consideration. They had very many lean years. Surely we are entitled to a few years of sufficiency. Coal, it should be remembered, is not the only thing that has gone up in price. Our farmers are getting better prices than ever before for their products, and for that much credit is due to the greater spending power of the colliery workers. The advance in rates at the collieries is responsible in great part for the better rates prevailing all over the land. In fact the people of Nova Scotia generally are receiving the benefit of the better rates paid at the collieries. The miller and the manufacturer, and the middleman are alike benefited. The money that our native miners receive is not hoarded up. They spend their money liberally in the country."

"It is said the high price of coal is paralyzing manufactures."

"We take no stock in that assertion. The prosperity of the maritime provinces, and of Quebec, was never more marked than during the past five years, during which period coal has been higher than at any previous period. The Mining Record made the statement a month or two ago that manufacturers on a moderate scale were getting their coal a dollar cheaper than similar concerns in Montreal. If the alleged high price of coal is detrimental to the prosecution of industries, how does it come about that at the present time Montreal never experienced so great industrial activity? Large and important new industries are being started; and established industries are being greatly extended. The price of coal at the present may be high as compared with former years, but does that prove it is extortionate? How many years did the G. M. A. carry on operations without profit? How much profit did the Halifax company operating at Stellarton make? But I will not go into details, content to say that the men are entitled to better rates than they had twenty years ago, and the operators entitled to better profits."

THE ATLANTIC COLLIERIES, LIMITED.

The following are the clauses of an act, to incorporate the Atlantic Collieries Co., now before the legislature, defining the objects, power and capital of the Company. The bill is in line with that of the Dominion Coal Co. and other big companies:

1. Charles Archibald, of the City and County of Halifax, Mining Engineer; Henry E. Coll, of Stellarton, in the County of Pictou, Mining Engineer; and Hector McInnes, of the City of Halifax, Solicitor, and such other persons as they, in writing, may associate with them, their successors, associates, assigns and such other persons as may become share or stockholders in the Company hereby created, are hereby constituted a body corporate, by the name of the "Atlantic Collieries, Limited" with a common seal, and shall hereafter be referred to as the "The Company."

2. The objects of the Company shall be as follows:

(a) To mine, quarry, work, mill and prepare for sale by any process, and to carry, sell and deal in coal, coke, ironstone, copper and copper ores, manganese and other minerals, clays, or mineral substances, and generally to carry on the trades of mine and coal owners, iron masters, founders, smelters of metals, quarrymen, ore and

metal dealers, and to transport on land and on water from places in the Province of Nova Scotia, freight and passengers.

(b) To purchase or acquire any interest in, and to hold, use or occupy any lands, buildings, coal and other mines, minerals, mining or other rights, easements or privileges, and the Company may sell and convey the same by deed or deeds with the usual covenants.

(c) To let, or sub-let for building, mining or any other purpose any property, and to give and grant any rights, licenses, easements or privileges.

(d) To construct, purchase, alter or maintain, or to contribute to the purchase, construction, alteration or maintenance of any building, railway, tramway, wire rope tramway, canal, wharf, bridge, pier, road or other work calculated to afford any facility in carrying on or extending the business of the Company, and to operate such railway, tramway, wire rope tramway and other works by steam, electricity or other motive power.

(e) To purchase, hire, construct or manufacture for use in connection with any business of the company, any ships, barges, rolling stock, machinery or plant.

(f) To acquire any exclusive right in letters patent, franchises or patent rights, or privileges, or lands in connection with the business of the Company.

(g) To form any land held by the Company, and for that purpose to buy, sell and deal in any farming stock or produce.

(h) To construct and maintain telegraphs and telephones, and to carry on the business of a telegraph and telephone company on the line of their works and railways, or otherwise.

(i) To acquire the good will of any business within the objects of the Company, and any lands, privileges, rights and contracts appertaining to the same, and in connection with any such purchase to undertake the liabilities of any company, association, partnership or person.

(j) To sell or otherwise dispose of the whole or any branch or part of the business or property of the Company to any company carrying on, or formed for the purpose of carrying on, any objects similar to those of the Company hereby incorporated.

(k) To acquire by original subscription or otherwise, and to hold, sell, mortgage or otherwise dispose of shares, stocks, whether common or preferred, debentures, debenture stocks, bonds and other obligations of any company carrying on, or formed for carrying on, any trade or business within the objects of the Company.

(l) To apply from time to time any part of the funds, stock, whether common or preferred, bonds, debentures, and other obligations of the Company, for any purpose of the Company.

(m) To purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire, hold, and enjoy all the property, franchises, rights and privileges held or enjoyed by any other Company or Companies carrying on any business similar to that which this Company is authorized to carry on under the provisions of its charter or otherwise; and such other companies are hereby authorized and empowered, by a vote of a majority in interest of such of their stockholders, and all persons legally entitled to vote at meetings of such other Company, as shall be present in person or by proxy at a meeting of the stockholders called for that purpose, to sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property, franchises, rights or privileges unto this Company as fully and effectually as if the said other companies were empowered so to do by a special Act of the Legislature of the Province of Nova Scotia, and such other companies are empowered to accept the bonds, shares, debentures and securities of this Company in