

Please read and send in as full a  
discussion as possible at earliest date.

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### COAL WASHING AS PRACTISED BY THE NOVA SCOTIA STEEL AND COAL COMPANY, AT SYDNEY MINES, CAPE BRETON, N. S.

By C. L. CANTLEY, Stud. Can. Soc. C. E.

(To be read before Mining Section, April 2nd, 1908.)

The cleansing of coal to fit it for metallurgical purposes is a branch of the art and science of ore dressing which has become prominent only at a comparatively recent date in America: The reasons for this are quickly brought to mind when we remember the growing scarcity of pure fuel and the refinements of metallurgical methods which now make fuel treatment necessary, except where Nature has been especially kind to the metallurgist.

In Canada, the greater part of our fuel is not sufficiently pure for the economical smelting of iron, and hence it was that one of the first coal washers to be built and operated in America was laid down in 1892 at Ferrona, Nova Scotia, by the New Glasgow Iron, Coal & Railway Company, at that date a constituent of a company which afterwards became the title company.

The success obtained on the product of the neighbouring mines induced Mr. Graham Fraser, at that time managing director of the Nova Scotia Steel & Forge Co., to carry out a series of experiments in and about the year 1894 on other Nova Scotia coals, and especially to test the coals of Eastern Cape Breton with a view of seeing whether a good enough coke could be made to warrant the establishment of an iron and steel industry on that island.