By Hon. Mr. Webster:

Q. That would be for water-borne?—A. Water-borne coal, yes. There is a big difference between water-borne and rail.

By the Chairman:

Q. The rail coal would come out very much better?—A. Oh, decidedly.

Q. There would be very little degradation? It would be almost negligible?—A. In the old days they used to screen the coal on the docks before putting it into the boat; but they do not do that now. It comes along just as it is from the mine.

Q. As a fuel Welsh coal was satisfactory?—A. Oh, absolutely.

Q. Very satisfactory?—A. Very satisfactory.

Q. Did you get any of the Welsh steam coal?—A. We had some Welsh semi-anthracite.

Q. What was your impression of that semi-anthracite?—A. It is a very good coal, but the degradation on that is very, very heavy indeed.

Q. Even heavier?—A. Worse. I would not like to say just exactly how far that would go. But if the coal is screened just before you deliver it, it is a very good substitute for American anthracite. There is a little more smoke to it than there is to anthracite coal; but not so very much. And there is very little of impurities.

Q. That is, it would be low in ash?—A. Yes, it is not high in ash.

Q. What else did you use for domestic?—A. We had what they call ovoids, or briquettes. I suppose we call them briquettes here. The results from those were, so far as the fuel was concerned, very satisfactory. I do not know how satisfactory they would be in very severe weather, such as we had this last winter. We sold most of ours, I think, before the severe weather. I think they were all sold about the 20th of January.

Q. Were those Old Country Welsh briquettes?—A. Oh, yes, made from Welsh anthracite coal.

Q. Did you use any American?—A. Briquettes?

Q. Briquettes.—A. Yes.

Q. How were they?—A. Well, they are not a bad briquette at all. They are a little more ashy than the others. One trouble with the British briquettes was the degradation on those too; it was very heavy. There was about 22 per cent.

Q. How were those discharged? By buckets?—A. By clamp buckets.

Q. Large sized buckets?—A. Oh, yes. They were just the shape of a hen's egg, about the proper size for the average consumer.

Q. Have they a hole through them? Are they that kind?—A. No, there is no hole through them.

Q. What was the next?—A. The next thing we had a little peat; but the quantity of it was very small—comparatively small.

Q. How did your customers like that?—A. Peat is a fuel than can be used in ranges at any time and with very good results. I think it is quite as good a fuel as—and some people think it is better than—anthracite coal.

Q. For a cooking stove?—A. For a cooking stove.

Q. Or range?—A. It could be used at any time of the year. It is very good too for open grates. I do not think that in a furnace it would last long enough.

Q. The evidence we got here was that a good many people used it satisfactorily in spring and fall in their furnaces.—A. You could do that. You could take this weather, for instance, and use it.