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MINING.

IV. THE COAL FIELDS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

C. OCHILTREE-MACDONALD.

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ON THE POLEMIC OF QUALITY.

It is revelant to the intent and structure of these papers to enquire into the character as to quality of Canadian fuels, more especially as this subject now agitates the public mind in relation to a proposal to introduce Cape Breton coal into the furnaces and grates of New England. It will suffice to take comparisons of Cape Breton with Appalachian: Vancouver with Washington, Oregon and California, and lignite from British Columbia with lignite from Puget Sound and Colorado.

In the markets of New England Cape Breton must compete with Appalachian coal: consequently I anticipate that the position of the Nova Scotian coal in relation to the quality of its formidable competitors assigns to it primary consideration here.

Average analyses of Appalachian fuels:—

Coal from	Water.	Volatiles.	Fixed Carbon.	Sulphur.	Ash.
Tennessee .....	.43	39.96	55.00	1.26	3.27
Maryland .....	.36	20.19	70.63	2.76	6.72
Kentucky	2.54	58.33	38.59	.87	4.14
West Virginia.....	.84	28.55	67.00	.56	3.08
Virginia.....	1.15	39.48	57.62	0.65	7.20
Ohio	5.84	35.44	55.77	1.11	2.47
Pennsylvania.....	2.66	37.95	55.58	1.56	3.44
Average for Appalachia ..	1.97	37.13	57.17	1.24	4.33
" " C. Breton.....	1.26	35.51	59.41	1.00	4.11

Allowing for the greater range of the analyses of the Appalachian the excellent position of Cape Breton coals is still unmistakable. To specify, Cape Breton coal is superior (taking average analyses) as containing less moisture, more fixed carbon, less sulphur and less ash than its competitors. Again, Cape Breton coal is superior as a gas producer to at least one of the coals of the Appalachian group, i.e., Alabama (Analysis not given above: does not effect total average). Tests indicate Cape Breton 9,000-11,000 and Alabama 8,000 cubic feet of gas per ton of coal. These are important considerations and when associated in the mind of a critic with superior methods of treating Cape Breton coal between the screens and consumers depot, are acceptable as proofs that the British American coal only requires men of insight, patience and tact to enter into daily use in the New England States.

The following relate to the fuels of the Pacific and illustrate the superior position of the British American coal:—

Average analysis of Pacific (U.S.A.) fuels:—

Coal from	Water.	Volatiles.	Fixed Carbon.	Sulphur.	Ash.
Washington.....	2.88	37.28	52.38	.36	7.14
Oregon.....	10.12	42.41	40.23	1.38	5.84
California.....	8.02	44.10	32.26	5.78	9.81
Average of Pacific fuel..	7.00	41.06	41.62	2.50	7.59
Average of Vancouver ..	1.47	28.19	64.05 { slowcoking }		6.29
" " " " " " " "	1.47	32.69	59.55 { fast " }		6.29

Thus Vancouver contains less moisture, volatiles and ash and more fixed carbon than American coal.

U. S. A. Naval tests, Pacific and Vancouver fuels:

1 cord ash wood 8 x 4 x 6 to evaporates equivalent of:—

Washington coal.....	2,300 lbs.
Oregon.....	2,600 "
California	2,600 "
Vancouver	1,800 "

Advantage of Vancouver coal—700 lbs. coal.

The following apply to lignite coals, which as is well known are an imperfect fuel of weedy structure comparatively valueless when adjacent to large deposits of true coal. In continental countries, however, improved furnaces of powerful draughts permit of their consumption in factories which turn out the very goods which compete with British manufactured articles even in British markets.

Colorado lignites-analysis of:

Water.	Volatiles.	Fixed Carbon.	Sulphur.	Ash.
27.35	63.95	6.55	0.20	1.95

Seam 9 ft. 6 in.

British Columbia lignite (mainland), analysis of:—

Water.	4 ft. seam.		Ash.
	A. Slow coking.	B. Fast coking.	
A. 10.46	35.01	49.61	4.89
B. 10.36	41.44	43.21	4.89

Analysis of lignites from the Territories:—

Water.	East of the 112th Meridian:—		Ash.
	A. Slow coking.	B. Fast coking.	
A. 16.28	33.19	46.25	4.28
B. —	—	29.18	—

West of the selected Meridian.
 18 ft. seam.

A. 12.93	26.80	52.28	7.99
B. 12.93	84.12	44.95	8.00

The Canadian lignites east of the 112th meridian contain as a rule 39.39 per cent. fixed carbon (slow coking) and those west of the meridian 50 per cent. of fixed carbon.

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 Mr. W Su ere Gi Sh
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