

market we had a few years ago. In 1906 the importations of American bituminous coal totalled only 56,969 tons; in 1907 they went up to 198, 543 tons round and 52,216 dust; while in 1908 they mounted up to 463,391 tons of round, and 133,060 of dust. Or put another way; Of the total consumption of Bituminous coal in the Province of Quebec the U. S. in 1906 supplied 3.6 per cent, in 1907 12.6 per cent and in 1908 22.3 per cent. Not only must free coal, but also any lowering of the duty, be vigorously resisted. A lowering of the duty by no more than 20 cents will seriously affect shipments to the St. Lawrence. In his testimony before the Royal Commission on a eight hour day, General Manager Duggan, of the Dominion Coal Company, stated that a reduction of two hours from the working day would involve an increase of 35 cents per ton in the cost of production. That this estimate of increased cost was moderate is borne out by the Miners' Federation of Britain who placed the cost of the Statutory 8 hour day at 30 cents per ton,—this after a year's experience of it. Mr. Duggan emphasized the point—as to the increased cost—by stating that such extra cost would shut out the Company entirely from foreign markets—and if the Dominion Coal Co., then all other Companies, and, further, he stated that with an increased cost such as estimated, it was doubtful if the company could sell coal in the Canadian markets outside the Maritime Provinces, at a price that would return the actual cost of delivery. The company would be reduced to the markets of the Maritime Provinces, and these could only consume a small portion of the output of the Company. Should such a condition arise, Mr. Duggan more than suggested that the only practicable plan would be to reduce production, and increase the price as high as outside competition would allow, which would probably be from 50 cents to \$1.00 per ton above current prices.

As to the effect of a lowering, even, of the duty—not to speak of its abolition—on the coal trade with Quebec, but one opinion was expressed by the Commission and that opinion prevails among all the large operators and presumably