

MONDAY, 16th April, 1877.

Committee met.—Mr. MacKAY in the Chair.

Mr. FRANCIS CLEMOW, Coal Merchant and Director of the Ottawa Gas Company, called and examined :

By Mr. Dymond :—

Has been a Director of the Gas Company for ten years. Trades in both bituminous and anthracite coal. Obtain supplies of bituminous coal from Nova Scotia and the United States. Formerly purchased in Great Britain, but has discontinued since 1873, owing to the advance in price. Buys chiefly from the Caledonia Block House, Intercolonial and International Mines. Uses 3,000 tons of gas coal per annum. That is the highest quality of coal, and cost last year \$5.75 per ton of 2,240 pounds. The cost was made up as follows : Initial cost, \$2; freight to Montreal, \$2; harbour dues, 10 cents per net ton; insurance, 3 cents per ton; freight to Ottawa \$1.60—total, \$5.75. This year was offered coal at the mines above named for \$1.50; freight to Montreal, \$2; harbour dues, &c., 13 cents; freight to Ottawa, \$1.50—total, \$5.15 per gross ton. Has bought the Willow Bank, United States, coal, last year, at \$5 per net ton, and the Youghoigheny at \$5.90; in both cases the charges included delivery on the wharf at Ottawa. At the above rate American coal would come to \$5.62½ for Willow Bank and \$6.64 for Youghoigheny.

By Mr. Tupper :—

Mr. G. H. DOBSON called and examined :

Q. Where do you reside ?—In Sydney, Cape Breton.

Q. Were you sent as a delegate to the Dominion Board of Trade ?—Yes.

Q. By whom ?—By the Cape Breton Board of Trade.

Q. Have you been spending some considerable time in endeavoring to ascertain how far trade can be promoted between the Upper Provinces and Nova Scotia ?—Yes; some years.

Q. What is the annual consumption of coal in Canada ?—Last year it was 1,415,516 tons, of which 352,414 tons was hard coal, I think. There is a little difference in our imports being made up to the 30th of June and the production by the mines return being made up to the 31st December.

Q. Where is the natural market of the Nova Scotia coal ?—Wherever we can get a return cargo from, or get a vessel bound to a loading port. It has been stated