

knowledge at that time on the Island. The Rustico man's supply ran out, and as Mr Horton's and my own interests were one and the same we decided to strike for a higher price. Charcoal from the earliest time had sold at one shilling per bushel (16 cents) so we struck for twenty cents, a very moderate sum indeed. The buyers rebelled. Such a procedure was never known before in the charcoal market. But we stood firm and as they had to get the article somewhere, the price was paid, and twenty cents has been the ruling figure ever since. This charcoal was generally used for soldering and tempering purposes being much cleaner and nicer than ordinary coal, but coke began to take its place and the charcoal pit is now almost a thing of the past. Charcoal is still used however in limited supply by tinsmiths, and some hotels use it for firing purposes, as it gives pleasant heat and is free from odours of any kind.

I might mention here a little incident connected with our work. Mr Horton, the boss, had occasion to go to the city one day and left me as general manager. Under my care were two little boys about eight and ten years old respectively. Either one of them was able to act as my instructor for a six months course at least. After raking out the pit a sharp look out had to be kept for any live brands that might happen to be hid amongst the coal. I can in imagination hear one little fellow's voice yet as his experienced ear caught the sound of burning coal, shouting "I hear fire." Once however he failed to find it and was down in his knees on the coal heap shouting "I hear fire" when the first indication he had of its whereabouts was to find it located in his pantaloons. Gymnastic exercises suitable to such a discovery were indulged in.

Only a trifling incident, but it relieved the monotony and created a hearty laugh, thus helping one to enjoy the less serious side of life ; which after all, I think, is fully as enjoyable as any other condition, if one is not too hard to interest, and blessed with health and a cheerful disposition.

ROBT. JENKINS