

in the fuel supply; you are a manufacturer, and have had considerable experience; could you displace coal in any of your processes by electricity if there were a more abundant supply of it?—A. Absolutely. A great many paper mills in Quebec are using electrical energy for producing power. Roughly speaking, electric energy at \$10 per horsepower per year is equivalent to \$8 coal.

Q. Then there is the question of electric stations on the St. Lawrence?—A. There is the possibility of getting 4,000,000 horse-power between Montreal and Prescott; that is waiting to be developed, and that is an economic development of power that could be sold at \$10 and pay 6 per cent interest, and 2 per cent on the sinking fund.

Q. The advantages that would accrue from such development are very considerable; would you oblige us by preparing a statement in regard to that?—A. I would be quite willing to do that.

The Committee adjourned at 1 p.m.

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 534,

OTTAWA, Friday, April 27, 1923.

The Special Committee of the Senate met at 11 a.m., Hon. Mr. McLennan in the Chair.

FARQUHAR ROBERTSON, Esquire, President, Farquhar Robertson, Limited, Montreal, appeared as a witness before the Committee and testified as follows:—

*By the Chairman:*

Q. How long have you been in the coal business in Montreal?—A. Since 1879.

Q. We will not stop to ask you what changes you have seen in that time.—A. I have seen a good many changes in that time.

Q. But we would be glad if you would tell us your experience during last winter in shortages of coal—the impression made on yourself and on your customers by the coals that you have used instead of anthracite.—A. We used various kinds.

Q. Did you use any Welsh anthracite?—A. Yes, Welsh anthracite. We used Welsh anthracite with very good results as to quality.

Q. As to quality?—A. The trouble with Welsh coal is that the degradation is very high, due to breakage. It is very friable.

Q. As I understand, it comes out very uneven, as regard size?—A. What we got out was very even. The bulk of what we got out was what they call cobbles, something about the size of furnace coal. However, it was shipped on the other side in excellent condition. Of course this was what they call machine-made cobbles that we had last year; the bulk of it.

Q. That was broken up?—A. Broken up and washed with water.

Q. Indeed?—A. Yes.

Q. In other words, you are speaking now of the very best type of Welsh anthracite?—A. The very best type of Welsh coal.

Q. About what degradation would there be in that?—A. About 40 per cent.

Q. As much as that? What is there in good anthracite?—A. Degradation?

Q. Yes.—A. Well, that varies. You mean American?

Q. Yes, American anthracite.—A. I think there is nearly 10 per cent.

Q. Ten?—A. That is of what you call screenings and buckwheat coal.

[Mr. Farquhar Robertson.]