

## Newfoundland Coal.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—Having noticed with interest the many references appearing in the columns of the press from time to time regarding our coal areas, and the undoubted assurance that we have areas worthy of the best consideration, it seems surprising that no has not been done to develop our possibilities in years gone by. The most disinterested person of years past, cannot help but realize that something should be done now in order that we should no longer depend on outside sources for our coal supplies of the future.

People of this country who supported the St. George's Coal Fields in their effort to prove that our coal areas are worthy of development, deserve the gratitude of the whole country, for they have not only proven conclusively that we have coal in abundance, but that we possess in this little Island some of the very highest grade bituminous coal that can be found anywhere in the world.

Take one example, the Jukes Seam the property of The St. George's Coal Fields, Limited, which gives the following analysis, made by Mr. G. T. Coloway, 57 Chancery Lane, London, England.

Moisture	3.036
Volatile Matter	30.344
Fixed Carbon	60.142
Sulphur	1.963
Ash	4.515

Let us compare it with the requirements of a high grade Bee-hive coking coal.

Leading authorities say that since a great proportion of coke produced in Bee-hive ovens is used for metallurgical purposes, it follows that the suitability of a coal for coking depends not alone on its physical structure, but on the absence of such impurities as sulphur. From a physical standpoint it has been demonstrated that coal, having in the neighbourhood of 32 per cent. volatile matter, gives the best results, and with coal of this composition, the proportion of gas content is about what is needed to maintain the heat of the oven, thus serving the fixed carbon and showing a high yield of coke to coal used; one having a higher volatile content, produce a coke which is brittle and spongy, lacking strength for metallurgical purposes, and show a low yield of coke to coal used; those having a still lower volatile content produce a coke which is porous and weak and at a reduced yield, owing to one of the fixed carbon of the coal being burned to supply the necessary heat to the oven. Assuming a coal of about 33 per cent. volatile matter, so that there is required about 1½ tons of coal to produce a ton of coke, it will be found that the resulting coke usually contains a slightly reduced percentage of sulphur over that found in the raw coal. In brief coals adapted for Bee-hive coking are those in which the volatile matter is about 32 per cent., ash under 7 per cent., and sulphur not over 2 per cent.

Coals that are high in sulphur and may be brought within the limits of such devices as washers, jig or breakers, and with the gradual disappearance of the best coking coals, recourse to these will need to be more general in years to come. The coking quality of coal taken from the Jukes Seam runs as high as 65.5 per cent., which from the above authoritative opinion makes it a coking coal of the highest quality, and one that is much sought after. What a great pity a rival station to that of North Sydney could not be located at LaPole, a port very easy of access from the coal seas, and in addition would provide a sailing station for the North Atlantic; possessing a fine harbor which is ice free all the year round.

Whilst speaking of the possibilities of a coking station at LaPole, the qualifications of coal for bunker use might be referred to. In the first instance "The amount of space in the hold of a ship allowable for storage limited. If a coal running high in ash and moisture—both incombustibles and low in heat units be selected, it would require a greater tonnage of coal, and therefore more bunker space, than if a high grade coal was used. The essentials therefore for bunker coals are, that they be low in ash and moisture, about 2 per cent. in sulphur and high in thermal value. The Jukes, Howley and Cleary Seams are equally valuable for bunker coal, they comply with the above requirements, and have a thermal value of 871, which rates them collectively as individually as some of the finest procurable for bunkering ships.

It may not be amiss to conclude by giving the qualifications of coal for Product Coking, or Gas Coal: A coal adaptable for this purpose must invariably be a coking coal, and must

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have other qualifications besides. Coal for such use must be low in sulphur and reasonably low in ash. The percentage of volatile matter according to present day practices is preferably 25 to 33 per cent. In general the chemical qualifications of a bituminous coal well adapted for by-product coking may be said to be:

Volatile matter	25 to 33 per cent.
Ash	4 to 8 per cent.
Sulphur	1½ per cent.

The references made to the qualifications necessary in bituminous coal for the purposes referred to, are obtained from the highest authorities and seeing that the analysis of our local

coal compares so favourably with these requirements, it seems unfortunate indeed that immediate steps cannot be taken to bring to fruition the efforts undertaken by local Capital.

It is not because this coal is lacking in quantity or quality. WHAT IS IT? Yours truly,

"AN INTERESTED CONSUMER."

Oct. 8th, 1920.

## The McInnis Tragedy.

TWO GIRLS ARRESTED.

Last week the North Sydney police arrested two girls Mary A. Edwards and Catherine Tobin, both living at Sydney Mines. When taken in charge by Chief Cowan both girls gave way to unbounded grief and wept copiously as they were being driven to North Sydney. On arrival there the suspects were given a room on the main floor of the gaol in apartments away from the other prisoners, where they cried themselves to sleep. MacDonald who is held as being the person who drove the car that killed Miss McInnis, has recovered from the effects of the shock caused by his apprehension on a murder charge, and is now taking his

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position quite calmly. The defending counsel will have no trouble, it is said, in proving his client's innocence, and the latter awaits the enquiry hopefully. With the arrest of the girls named the police consider that they can now rest their case.

The following afternoon (Wednesday) the girls Edwards and Tobin, were admitted to bail, and mightily pleased they were when released. They

will be used as witnesses for the prosecution when the case against MacDonald comes up for hearing.

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## Produce and Provisions.

(From Saturday's Trade Review.)

**Codfish.**—A few more schooners arrived this week laden with dry codfish, including half a dozen cargoes of Labrador. The latter fish shows a marked improvement in cure as compared with recent years, and is selling at \$9.00 to \$9.25 for No. 1 and \$8.00 to \$8.25 for No. 2. There is very little cullage here so far. The price of Shore fish in Oporto has been advanced 2½¢ this week and is now 77½¢ for No. 1 and 72½¢ for No. 2. The export this week amounted to 6887 quintals shore. Local prices are unchanged \$10.00 and \$9.00.

**Cod Liver Oil.**—The market is tending lower. We do not hear of any dealers offering any more than \$1.00 per gallon. There were a few transactions this week and the export mostly to New York amounted to 804 gallons. The Norwegian oil is coming into the New York market in larger volume than ever.

**Cod Oil.**—The fishermen are holding back what little they have this year with the hope of getting a better price. The foreign markets are all dull and there is no life in the situation. We quote \$200 as the nominal price although we heard of sales at \$220 which were made to fill contracts and are the exception. The exports this week were 12,991 gallons.

**Lobsters.**—We learn from the West Coast that more than half the pack of 1920 Lobsters is still held by the Packers there. They refused \$30.00 a case last July and now there is no one who is willing to make them any kind of an offer. How the situation is going to resolve itself out, it is difficult to foresee. The market for tinned Lobster in New York is practically dead owing to the ban on luxuries in which class the Lobster stands prominent. It is impossible that things many improve and that there will be a better demand later, but there is no indication that it will come this side of the New Year. In St. John's to-day no one wants to buy Lobsters in quantity because they see no prospect of selling abroad. The normal price is \$20.00, but no one is anxious to make a purchase at this figure.

**Pork.**—The recent advance in Hogs is attributed to the important decrease in stocks of Pork according to latest American advices. The exports to the European Continent are reported to be of good volume and show a steady increase during the past month. The advance which was equal to \$4.00 per barrel on Pork, reacted \$1.00 to \$1.50 from the high point. The reaction seemed to be the result of a sharp break in the Corn Market which carried this grain to the lowest point for a long period. The fact seems to be, that there is an extraordinary good feed crop this year with a record corn crop, and unless the supply of live Hogs in the United States is small (as is reported) the conditions would seem favorable for the expectation of lower pork prices as the season progresses.

**Beef.**—The high grades of Beef such as Special Family and extra Family continue to show considerable firmness, which is said to be due to scarcity of the better grades of Corn fed steers. The other grades remain unchanged. The demand for cheap Beef is inactive according to latest cable reports Local movement of both Beef and Pork continues at a minimum owing to the uncertainty of the trade outlook. Special Family is \$36.00, Extra Flank \$34.00, Family \$31.00, and Boneless \$30.00 to \$32.00 in the local market according to quality.

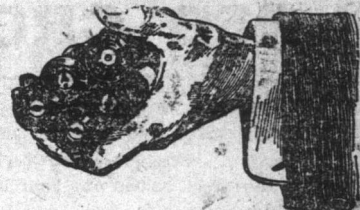
**Flour.**—The Fall Trade has set in and buyers are now taking hold of larger quantities. Everyone has been holding off till the last moment, but now purchases are very liberal, and has resulted in many mills being over-sold, and there is likely to be considerable delay in getting shipments forward. The European trade has been taking wheat in preference to flour, and this has created considerable strength in the wheat market, and reflected its strength on the flour market in Argentina and Australia the crops are reported in excellent conditions with the prospects of considerable quantities of wheat to be shipped from there in December and January. We hear of sales on the spot of Highest Manitoba Patents at \$17.00 to \$17.50, but there will be lower prices in November and December.

**Sugar.**—The F.C.B. contract is now keeping the sugar situation in an unchangeable condition, which will prevail till the balance of the fall. When consumption reaches a point when stocks are nearing the end, the Regulations will be lifted. When this period will arrive is hard to determine for the simple reason that the high price has the tendency to retard consumption and renders it difficult to judge the length of time the Government holdings will last. We understand that an import of 500 sacks of Light Brown sugar shortly due, will not be allowed to be landed.

**Molasses.**—Under the recently considered trade arrangement between Canada and the West Indies there is to be greater attention paid to the Molasses business than heretofore. Larger quantities are expected to be used next year, and greater efforts are to be made to popularize this class of food by selling it in smaller and better packages instead of the huge puncheons now in general use. The Fancy Molasses which contains all the sugar is meeting a greater demand

than ever, and is a very much superior article to the "Choice" grade, the quality of which is going from bad to worse owing to the improved methods of manufacture, which now extracts all the sugar, and leaves the "black strap" which is only fit for the manufacture of rum. The above are extracts from one of our Canadian Contemporaries and shows what they have in view. The market here in Newfoundland is a little easier. We quote "Fancy" Molasses at \$1.75 per gallon, and "Choice" at \$1.55 per gallon in wholesale lots.

**Potatoes.**—There is no change in the situation. Home-grown potatoes are selling under \$4.00 and in the outports are offered as low as \$3.60 the barrel. The local crop is excellent and the potatoes are dry and large. The P.E.I. potatoes will be arriving in a few weeks, and will sell at the prevailing low prices. The St. John's price for local at the stores is \$4.00 to \$4.50 for the 180 pounds barrel.



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