

perience with mica-schist, and another question I would like to ask is, and this may be simple to some, but I have charge of the building and rebuilding of a number of furnaces in our foundry, and it is information I am after, I want to know if we can tell by the look of a brick whether it is good, bad or indifferent. I would also like you to give us your unbiased opinion as to the best brick obtainable. Some little time ago we got a carload of fire clay, and we were told that we could leave it out in the weather, and that it would not hurt it at all. That does not reconcile at all with the remarks you made in reference to some of the bricks. I was just wondering if this had any reference to the brick that you deal in.

Mr. Woodison,—

I have had some experience with mica-schist. It is a very good refractory. The serious drawback, however, in its general use is that it is not mined, or rather it is not supplied to you in any given shape. You get it in very irregular shapes, and you ought to have a stone mason, and a stone mason of the old school at that, to take a look and prepare it for cupola practice.

Your second question as to recommendation of a fire brick is hardly a fair question. I am in the brick business, and I did not come down here to solicit business, but without mentioning any branch, if you could get a brick containing approximately 50% of silica and 53 or 54% of aluminum, not too coarse and medium burned, it should not make much difference whether it is from Jones or Woodison. It must be medium burnt. Now if it is too hard burnt it is going to spall off. If it is too soft burnt it will have a similar action, and just simply fall away with the slag. Any amount of you foundrymen who have had experience, particularly with large cupolas, will bear in mind the fact that your bosh burns out, and while it is true the blast is partially to blame for it. It is also a fact that a cupola in a great many instances the slag is allowed to accumulate and forms a bridge above the tuyere, so you can guess what happens. I have seen a cupola bridge right over, and after the bottom has been dropped the cupola is completely bunged, and if a brick is used the bricks will go with it.

Mr. Baldwin,—

You have not yet answered my other question in connection with leaving the brick out in the weather.

Mr. Woodison,—

I beg your pardon, but I overlooked that part. Regarding