

WINNIPEG AND THE FUEL SITUATION.

Toronto Saturday night takes up the cudgels on behalf of the Alberta coal-mining industry which has been the subject of attack by the Winnipeg papers since it was learned the city of Winnipeg would have to depend principally on Alberta coal during the coming winter. This is the way the Saturday Night sizes up the Winnipeg opposition to the scheme:

The amazing manner in which so many Canadians readily express lack of faith in this country's ability to stand more on its own feet through the development of our own rich natural resources is pathetic. The fuel situation is a case in point. Winnipeg is becoming hysterical over the possibility of a coal famine next winter, due to the proposed embargo on Pennsylvania anthracite. Manitoba's fuel administrator has even gone so far as to court further hysteria by stating that neither he nor anybody else in Canada can guarantee Winnipeg an adequate supply of hard coal for next winter. Would not the more sensible course be to do less "can't be done" shouting from the rooftops and set about arranging for as many substitutes as possible? If there is a fuel famine next winter, in Winnipeg or any other

western city, it will be due largely to the criminal lack of initiative by the Government and those in charge of such matters. Dear knows, Nature has provided sufficient wood and coal to keep everybody warm. Now is the time to start getting it out. Northern parts of the prairie provinces contain all kinds of timber. What organized effort is being made to convert this fuel in case of any coal shortage.

In Saskatchewan and Alberta there are billions of tons of coal, much of good quality, and assurance has been given by various operating companies that they can meet the prairie demands. If such is possible and the Government should be able to see that delivery is made, surely it is the duty of all westerners to co-operate in every way they can to alleviate the strain on eastern demands. Certain interests in Winnipeg appear to take it for granted that frequent miners' strikes prohibit Alberta companies being able to deliver. This danger ought to be eliminated by a firm hand with a few agitators. The miners are far from being all alien enemies, as many recklessly contend. In fact, it is stated by those who have investigated that the majority are British born and English speaking. The mine operators are responsible people and should at least be given credit for first-hand knowledge of how much dependence may be placed on the men in their employ.

We do not expect a continuation of Winnipeg's opposition to being forced to depend on Alberta coal. In fact from now on we expect to hear the Winnipeg press thanking goodness there is Alberta coal to depend on. For C. A. Magrath, Canadian Fuel Controller, told Winnipeggers some plain facts the other day. Pennsylvania anthracite, on which the Manitoba capital has always depended for heat is now going to France—every pound of it that can be spared. And if there is any left over, Italy needs it. Italy is so short of coal that the nation's forests are being cut down for domestic fuel. What little coal Great Britain can spare to Italy must be used for munitions factories and military transportation. So, after all, Winnipeg's claim on Pennsylvania anthracite is very slim indeed. Winnipeg will do well not to repudiate Alberta coal. It will come in handy next winter.