

Extract

FROM REPORT RECEIVED FROM MR. W. D. REID,
TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE AT
THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

Coal By-Products

On the 28th August I had an interview extending over six hours with the Directors and Engineers of the Lauchhammer Rheinmetall Aktiengesellschaft in Berlin and discussed in detail the proposed tests on Tasmanian coal.

I furnished them with the whole of the technical information required and they are now anxious to try out the coal for the production of refined benzol, lubricating oil and pitch.

Under Scheme A they are desirous of having 50 lbs. weight of run of mine coal delivered them free of charge in a well soldered galvanised iron vessel enclosed in a box. It is essential that the coal be placed in the above immediately it is broken as they wish to examine its character and at the same time avoid any possible losses of volatile matter in transit. The coal to be in lumps of about 6 inches.

This firm is prepared to carry out the analysis, the distilling test, and furnish a report for the sum of £10 under Scheme A.

If the preliminary test is satisfactory they will submit general drawings for a testing plant in Tasmania similar to one now being erected in Turkey.

The total cost of such testing plant, with a capacity of 2 tons coal per 24 hours, erected in Tasmania by one of their own engineers and the plant run for such time as to demonstrate the possibility of economically treating the coal and preparation of report will be two thousand pounds (£2,000).

The coal in Scheme A is worked up so that only the ash is left.

The products are lubricating oil, benzol and pitch. The benzol produced during the process is suitable for use in motor driven vehicles without further refining.

If the coal owners decide to forward the 50 lbs. weight of coal referred to, it should be consigned to Lauchhammer Rheinmetall Aktiengesellschaft, Berlin, N.W.6, Luisenplatz, 2-4.

Scheme B - Under the process a half coke is formed which is suitable for use in blacksmith's forges and also in grates with wood fires.

The products from Scheme B are similar to those from Scheme A but a slight increase in refined benzol is obtained.

For the purposes of this test 40 to 50 tons of coal would be required and the cost of the test including

detailed working report is estimated at £150. The coal to be delivered free of charge.

If the results from Scheme B were satisfactory the Directors of the Berlin firm advise the erection of their smallest commercial unit capable of treating 60 tons of coal in 24 hours at a total cost of £7,600. This amount to include the erection of the plant by their engineer.

As already stated the benzol produced can be used for motor vehicles direct from the plant without further refining, as in Scheme A.

After discussing the matter at considerable length with the Directors and Engineers of the firm, I would strongly recommend those interested to have the tests referred to carried out in Berlin in order to determine whether the coal under the Lauchhammer Rheinmetall Aktiengesellschaft process can be economically treated. I would suggest typical East Coast coal being sent, and if possible, the sample of 50 lbs. under Scheme A be taken by one of the Geologists.

If it is decided by the coal owners to send the 50 tons under Scheme B it is to be consigned to:-

Kohlenveredelung G.m.b.H.
"Grube Gustav Hasse",
Rossbach bei Weibenfels (Saale),
Bahnhof Weibenfels (Saale).

zur Weiterbeforderung mit der Grubenbahn "Gute Hoffnung".
"Anschlussgleis Hasse."

I took advantage of the opportunity of visiting a large plant belonging to this firm about 20 miles from Berlin and was much impressed with the general arrangements and modern methods adopted.

Since my return to London, the Berlin firm has sent a list of works which it would be advisable for me to examine in the interests of the State if the Tasmanian coal owners decide to forward the samples for testing.

Author: W.D. Reid

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