

production be stepped up?

Mr. Vardy It is more or less the old crude way. The clay is taken from the pits by wheelbarrow, and goes to elevators and into the crusher, and down into the moulds, and the bricks are cut off by a string of wires passing through the moulds. Afterwards they are taken out and pass to the kiln, then they are sun dried. It's the old crude methods, and I believe if they had more modern methods the production would be stepped up, but then again you are up against the imported article being superior, and in order to make the industry worthwhile you will have to condemn the clay pits and use the shale.

Mr. Higgins Mr. Chairman, the duty on machinery coming in for brick is free.

Mr. Smallwood Won't Mr. Vardy confirm the fact that one of the gentlemen making brick down his way went away recently to the States and visited a number of up-to-date brick factories, and has plans to improve his plant in Trinity Bay? Isn't that true?

Mr. Vardy Yes, I understand it is true. They have plans in mind to get together on it over there and try to use the shale. There is an unlimited quantity of shale.

Mr. Starkes The machinery for making brick is duty free, and your Committee must have made a mistake.

Mr. Vardy I have not consulted the tariff on this myself. That was always my knowledge, and I know Mr. Smith had trouble on that. Is that a recent tariff?

Mr. Hickman Well this tariff is issued by the Customs in June, 1946, and included quite a lot of machinery for various purposes, including machinery for making brick, and it's duty free the same as cordage machinery for making twine, that's duty free.

Mr. Higgins Its nice to know the Mining Committee made one slip!

Mr. Harrington All those bricks that are made, are they used locally?

Mr. Vardy I don't know of any local made brick being exported. I know we are importing a lot of brick, but I don't know of any being exported. It has been stated that the main complaint against our local brick is that it is very coarse and absorbs too much moisture. It can't stand up over a period of years against the hard brick. Of course, there is the hard and soft, I may say they use the hard brick for chimneys, but I think that's the main complaint. The brick manufactured from clay has been very porous, but the brick manufactured from this shale can be hardened up so that, as the report says, "it will be like steel". The opinion is that an industry should be started immediately.

Mr. Hickman I don't want to disagree with Mr. Vardy again, but there has been some brick exported.

Mr. Vardy I said "to my knowledge"; I did not say there was not any exported.

[The section was adopted. The committee began discussion of the section on water-power, and then rose and reported progress. The Convention adjourned]

April 15, 1947

[The Report of the Finance Committee was read by Mr. Cashin.¹ The Convention adjourned.]

April 16, 1947

Report of the Mining Committee:² Committee of the Whole

Mr. Higgins When we adjourned this report we were dealing with water-power.³ The table has been read, and Mr. Banfield was to give us some figures of estimated horsepower. I would ask you to mark on the tables the figures which Mr. Banfield will read out. I would like to say we cannot vouch for the accuracy of these figures. We are

giving them to you as we got them. We are informed they are only an estimate. They will give you some idea, though not very accurate, of the potential horsepower in the country.

Mr. Banfield Mobile River	3,000 hp
Petty Harbour	1,800
Tors Cove & Rocky River	4,493

¹Volume II:369.

²Volume II:313.

³Volume II:354. The editors were unable to find the table on water-power.