

per cord. If the wood costs no more than \$5,50 per cord ready for burning, it is as dear as coal at \$12,50 per ton. It is really surprising that wood is used at all for family purposes with this enormous percentage against it and in favor of coal.

Eight or ten years ago people began to burn coal in Rochester, and they paid \$7,25 per ton for it, while they could buy wood for less than three dollars per cord. It was then contended by some consumers that coal was as cheap an article for fuel as wood. If that was so, what will be said now when a ton of coal costs fifteen or twenty per cent. less than a cord of wood?

Coal is fast becoming the chief article of fuel in this city, still hundreds continue to use wood.— Many of them have wood stoves and think a change will involve a loss. It must be a very economical family that does not consume enough fuel in a year to save the cost of a coal stove by resorting to that fuel from wood; and this can be the gain of one year. We remember that some five years ago a coal dealer submitted a proposition to the Board of Education to replace all the wood stoves in the schools with such coal stoves as the Board might select, and furnish all the fuel the Board would demand to warm the school houses, for simply what the Board paid for wood in a single year. This proposition was made when coal was thirty per cent dearer than now, and wood was more than that amount cheaper than at present.— It showed what confidence the coal dealer had in the article he sold for fuel.

Coal is not only profitable fuel for stores and places of business large and small, but in small families where but a single fire is maintained.— We know of such families who have consumed but two tons of coal in five of the coldest months of the year, where they used to require from four to five cords of hard wood to keep the same premises warm for a similar period. Such families now can buy a winter's fuel in coal for ten dollars, where the wood would certainly cost from twenty to twenty-five dollars for the same purpose.

The city of Rochester is annually expending some five thousand dollars for wood to distribute among the poor, who often live in cold tenements and huddle together to keep warm. We really believe the city had better furnish the poor with cheap coal stoves and supply that fuel than continue to purchase wood, at anything like present prices.
