

the work should be undertaken at the earliest possible moment.

The facilities of the Company are now taxed to their utmost with the present business. At this date the Company is handling from the coal fields an average of over 200 cars of coal and coke per day. These cars are collected from 8 short branches, made up into trains in the Pocahontas and Flat Top yards and are thence sent through to Radford a distance of 75 miles. There is no room at the Pocahontas or Flat Top yards for further extensions and with the increased shipments from the new operations and the construction of new coke ovens now in progress, the traffic will be so largely increased by next spring that additional yard room will be absolutely necessary.

Under the plan herein recommended these facilities will be provided at Bluefields. The coke and coal will then be gathered from the various branches and taken to the Bluefield yard where it will be made up into trains and then sent through to Roanoke.

Heretofore it has been the custom of your management to submit early in each year an estimate of the improvements required, but the importance in preparing in time for the increase of business which from the many new industries now in progress upon our line may be anticipated for the coming year renders it necessary that the matter be considered earlier than customary.

In order therefore that you may consider the matter as a whole there will be attached to this statements prepared by the General Manager and Chief Engineer showing the requirements for next year in addition to those especially referred to in this report.

The following is a summary:-