

cratic tastes in Canada when it comes to what we use—of Ontario and the West so far as anthracite coal is concerned. I would therefore like to know what is being done. If this company have a lease of this mine and are not making such progress as is necessary in the interests of the people, then a little pressure should be brought to bear upon them at this particular time with a view to having them get to work and get that mine opened up. So far as the cost of carrying coal to Eastern Canada from the West is concerned, if we have the grade of coal out there that the East requires it would be much more profitable for us to carry that coal to the East on our National railways, even at a low rate, than to pay that \$47,000,000 deficit by means of luxury taxes and otherwise. We would thereby be keeping these railways busy and avoiding in the future such deficits as we have in the past, and at the same time we would be uniting Canada in such a way as it has never been united before.

Mr. R. J. MANION (Fort William and Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a word on behalf of the people from my section of Ontario to support the remarks of other hon. gentlemen from different parts of that province who have spoken on the coal situation.

During the past few weeks I have received a number of communications dealing with this question. It certainly is evident that the people of the western end of Ontario are going to find themselves in a serious condition this winter with regard to coal if some solution of this problem is not arrived at. I know that the Government have been dealing with the matter because I took it up unofficially with some of its members, who told me that they were looking into it. I feel quite sure that it has not been neglected, but I would like to impress upon the other members of the Government the very great importance of this question. It seems almost a tragedy that a country such as this, as the hon. member for Wright (Mr. Devlin) has pointed out possessing the second greatest deposits of coal in the world—taking second place only to the United States—should be dependent on outside countries for our coal. Ontario, being in the centre of the country, has to get coal either from the Pennsylvania fields, or from the far West, near the home of my hon. friend from Regina (Mr. Cowan), or from the Nova Scotia coal fields. It seems to me that it would be a very popular act and a very wise one if some scheme could be worked out whereby

coal could be brought to the eastern parts of Ontario from the Nova Scotia fields, and to the western parts, my own parts of Ontario, from the western fields. This question is linked up with the development of the natural resources of the country, a matter which I brought up in this House on three or four different occasions,—the development of our iron, coal and oil supplies. As the hon. member for Regina has pointed out, it would help relieve the deficit on operation of our National railways if we could devise some means of utilizing our coal deposits. I simply desire to impress upon the House and upon the Government the gravity of the situation which faces Ontario in particular in regard to the securing of coal for the coming winter.

Mr. J. A. ROBB (Chateauguay-Huntingdon): Mr. Speaker, before the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Meighen) answers the inquiries that have been made, I should like to direct his attention to certain facts that were brought out during the last session in an investigation that was made in the Senate. The minister will remember that an old gentleman from California claimed to have secured very large areas of excellent coal fields in Alberta. For reasons which the minister will understand, the lease was cancelled and was subsequently taken up by one or two others, and I understand that afterwards that lease also was cancelled. I gathered from conversation with this man from California, who showed me all his plans—I knew nothing about them more than what he told me—that he was quite willing to surrender to the nation any rights that he had, provided he was refunded the amount he had spent in exploring these coal areas. If his statement is correct, there are in Alberta millions of tons of excellent coal that might be used to the advantage of the nation. I do not know whether the minister is in a position to make any statement in regard to the matter at this time; I am not pressing him to do so. But if he is in a position to make a statement, I think it would be well that the country should know just what rights Canada has in connection with that large coal area in Alberta, and whether it can be developed for the benefit of the Canadian people.

Mr. M. R. BLAKE (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words in regard to the coal situation, as it is a matter in which every one in Canada is deeply interested. Hon. members who