

the United States is in the driver's seat, and that as she is our close and friendly neighbour, rather than rebel against that condition we must try to put our own house in order.

For some time the attention of the entire North American continent has been centred on the strike in the American coal mines. Certain Canadian cities fear that if the trouble continues they will be short of coal. I am wondering whether everything that could be done has been done to produce and use more Canadian coal, so that we would not have to import such great quantities from the United States. I notice by the report of the Dominion Coal Board that last year Canada's total coal consumption was slightly more than 47 million tons. Of this total slightly more than 18 million tons was Canadian coal, and the balance of about 29 million tons was imported.

We in British Columbia produce a bituminous coal, quantities of which used to be exported to Japan and other countries, but a short time ago a deal was made whereby what is called "Red China" would supply Japan with coal, and British Columbia lost a market which she had held for many years. True, only some 280,000 tons per year went to Japan, but even this was a great help to the coal miners of the Pacific coast.

Parliament last year passed a bill which provided for loans of approximately \$10 million to assist in the purchase of better machinery by the Maritime coal operators. When they get into full production I trust that the people of this country will use more Canadian coal and import less from the United States. The supplying of Canadian consumers with oil from the Alberta fields will considerably reduce our purchases of that commodity from the United States.

I turn now to what I consider is a more serious matter. The Prime Minister is telling us that we should buy more goods from Great Britain to help balance what she buys from us. As honourable senators know, Great Britain's purchases from Canada last year amounted to almost \$400 million more than our purchases from her. My particular attention was recently drawn to an article appearing in the *Toronto Saturday Night*, to the effect that a body known as the C.B.C., when buying television equipment for the cities of Toronto and Montreal, never gave the British a chance to tender. Now, does anyone say that Britain is backward in the field of television? I have just been reading something of her development in this field, and in many respects she is far ahead of the United States. British manufacturers of modern, up-to-date television sets and machinery have in Toronto a properly established agency, known as the Pye Company.

Do you suppose, honourable senators, that even this company was allowed to tender on the television equipment required by the C.B.C.? No: The corporation decided to buy these sets from the United States. I should like to know whether the C.B.C., as would be the case with an ordinary business, would have to obtain an import licence for this transaction, or is this organization above the law when it decides to buy this kind of material? It is high time that the government and the people of this country took note that we are setting up boards and administrators who are practically defying governments and are ignoring our democratic forms of control. I draw the attention of the government to this particular situation because to me it is a shocking state of affairs when a company established here with up-to-date television equipment is not even given a chance of tendering on material required by the C.B.C.

I am very glad indeed that it has been proposed to set up a committee on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and I hope that the leader of the government in this house will press to have members of the Senate included in that committee. For, after all, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is a body set up by parliament, not by the government, and all of us are concerned in its operation, especially when it asks for more money, as it is now doing, and seeks the consent of the government to an increase in the radio licence fee. I wonder whether any of you have looked over the recent reports of the C.B.C. If so, you may see where that body is going financially and where it will end if we give it more money. The grand total of all C.B.C. expenditures last year was close to eleven and a half million dollars. In 1944 its expenditures were five and a half million dollars. The more money these people get, the more they want; and the money can come from only one source, namely from the taxpayers of this country. It is high time to call a halt to this trend.

According to a clipping I have here, the government intends to add three thousand persons to the staff of the Income Tax branch. I trust that when this generation passes away it will not be true of them, as of a generation mentioned in Holy Writ, that the hand of the tax-gatherer was heavy in the land. With many exempt from payment of income tax the burden falls mainly on a smaller group, and the manner in which expenditures are increasing, both provincial and federal, particularly federal, suggests a parallel between those ancient days and our own.