

advisory board. So far as the coal and steel industry is concerned, he is so contemptuous of it and of those interested in it that he does not even trouble to make this paltry excuse. One remark he does make, doubtless intended for the hon. member for Rosetown (Mr. Evans) or those few who hold similar opinions; he says that the policy of this administration is not a high tariff policy but a low tariff policy; its policy is to encourage production at home and the marketing of our excessive production abroad. We see how a low tariff policy, with respect to iron and steel, not only encourages but has actually ensured the marketing in Canada last year of about \$300,000,000 worth of American iron and steel, at least 75 per cent of which could and should be made in this country with enormous economic advantage to the steel and coal industry, the transport workers and other associated spheres of activity. During recent years the government, when giving consideration to the tariff, have paid no attention whatever to the interests of the Canadian coal miners or steel workers. The tariff tinkering of the past few years has clearly demonstrated that the tariff advisory board is an effective obstacle to any upward readjustment of the tariff, while the minister holds himself quite free to decree, and does decree, a downward revision of the tariff on his own initiative or perhaps at the solicitation of party friends. We had an instance of this last year in the boast of the Minister of Trade and Commerce when he boasted that he had induced the minister to reduce the duty on coal for the sake of some of his friends, who, he admitted, had not asked for the favour.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, there is no sign from this government of any intention to comply with the recommendations of the Duncan report with respect to the coal and steel industry. The budget recently presented by the Minister of Finance does not even make a pretence to protect this industry and, so far as tariff relief is concerned, those interested either by way of occupation or investment may take what comfort they can from the knowledge that the present ministry have definitely turned a deaf ear to all their representations and requests for safeguarding protection or relief. The subvention of 50 cents per ton on native coal used in the Nova Scotia steel industry is ignored by the government and is still denied us, in spite of the findings made nearly three years ago by a royal commission created by this government and notwithstanding the fact that three sessions of this parliament have been held since the commission completed its work on

maritime claims. Not only have these remedial recommendations made by the royal commission been entirely ignored, but other recommendations are also treated as scraps of paper.

Just here I would like to refer for a moment to the coke oven bonus introduced by the Minister of Mines in April, 1927. I pointed out then to the minister that his proposal would be of absolutely no value to the Nova Scotia industry, and now I want to point out to the Minister of Finance and to the house that although that policy has been in force for two years not one dollar has been expended or claimed by way of bonus on Canadian coal used in the coke ovens of this country. The only report made so far is one as to about 15,000 tons used in Halifax in a small plant which was built to replace an antiquated city gas installation built some fifty years ago. Some of the friends of the government had under consideration, at the time this bill was passed, the location of coke ovens for the production of coke and gas in Montreal. They knew the provisions of the proposed act before the act was voted on, and before the plant location was decided on, and I want to point out to the house that they deliberately built their ovens alongside the Lachine canal. Why did they do that? They decided upon that location because they had no intention of using a ton of Nova Scotia or other Canadian coal in that enterprise. If they had so intended they would have located their plant down at the lower end of Montreal harbour, where Nova Scotia coal could have been unloaded direct into their storage bins from the colliers. They decided upon their present location in order that American coal could be transferred direct from the holds of the steamers to the bins of the plant, and that is being done, therefore if they now for any reason should wish to take advantage of the bonus as to Canadian coal they would have to tranship the coal into lighters or by rail at a cost of from 50 cents to one dollar per ton, in order to get it to their plant, this due to its location. They knew what the proposals of the government would be and they simply ignored them. I do not know whether or not the government really knew how little value these proposals had; my impression is they did not care; they constituted a gesture. At all events the Minister of Mines gave us a gold brick, to use ordinary parlance.

I am sorry the Prime Minister is not in his seat; I should now like to put a few plain questions to him. I ask the Prime Minister if he is determined to continue to dishonour the findings of his own royal commission,