

of Canadian produced coal, which will be bound to lead to increased unemployment in our Canadian mines.

Mr. REID: What about anthracite?

Mr. CAMERON (Cape Breton): Anthracite screenings from Russia will take the place of bituminous coal from the east for power purposes in the manufacturing centres of this country. We can produce coke in this country to take the place of the very best anthracite in the world. I wish to point out—I have these figures from the fuel board—that last year there was imported into the United States over 400,000 tons of anthracite coal from Russia over a duty of \$2 a ton. In my judgment it will be impossible to arrange with Russia, having regard to what they were able to accomplish against a duty of \$2 a ton going into the United States, a trade treaty including coal which will not be of serious damage and injury to the coal industry of the Dominion of Canada.

I am of the opinion that many hon. members fail to realize the tremendous economic importance of the coal mines in Nova Scotia. Last year even with the depression there was paid out in wages to the working men of that province over \$14,000,000. I say to my friends from Ontario that the industrial centres of Nova Scotia furnish one of the very best markets in Canada for both the manufactured goods and the agricultural products of the great province of Ontario. I propose to develop this feature further if I am spared at another session; we of the maritime provinces at confederation were given the assurance that we might expect the market for our coal not alone of Quebec but of Ontario. I can prove that from the records antecedent to confederation. Economically we have a splendid case for the consideration of the government, and from the standpoint of the development of this dominion we in the maritime provinces have a right to expect the most favourable consideration.

I have been associated more or less with public life for the last forty years, and one of the great questions always before the public of the maritime provinces has been the attitude of the federal government in regard to coal and steel. I should like to see in this parliament favourable consideration given to that subject, and as far as I am concerned if I felt that I contributed in the least degree towards a policy which would stabilize the attitude of all governments toward this great industry, to bring it out of the doldrums in which it has been struggling for some time and place it on a basis whereby those who have their money invested in this great enterprise will be able to

go forward and develop it so that it can make the contribution of which it is capable towards the economic life of this dominion, I shall be amply satisfied. I regret that I have taken so much time, but I feel very keenly on this matter. I want to emphasize my profound fear with regard to the question of Russian coal coming into competition with coal produced in Canada.

Mr. BROOKS: I had intended to make some extended remarks in connection with the subvention for coal, but briefly I want to protest on behalf of New Brunswick against the fact that the coal miners in that province have not received the same consideration as have the coal operators in Nova Scotia. I am glad indeed that Nova Scotia has received this consideration, but we have a thousand men employed in the town and area of Minto, who for the last four or five years had almost steady employment. But to-day they are working only two or three days a week. The coal operators have applied to the government but have received no consideration, and on that ground I want to register a complaint on their behalf.

Mr. HEAPS: Would the minister kindly tell the committee the basis of this subvention to the mining industry of the maritime provinces?

Mr. CRERAR: The arrangement was entered into a little over ten years ago, or rather the subvention principle was adopted. The purpose was to put Canadian coal, particularly that from Nova Scotia, into a position to compete effectively with coal imported from the United States. To do that a complicated system of accounting was worked out. The subventions have been paid since that time on the basis of what is required to enable Nova Scotia coal to compete with American coal.

Mr. BENNETT: A rate per ton per mile.

Mr. CRERAR: Yes, based on a rate per ton per mile, and undoubtedly it resulted in a great deal of Nova Scotia coal moving to the western part of Quebec and on into a considerable area of Ontario.

Mr. HEAPS: Will the minister inform the committee how much coal was involved in this item of \$1,950,000? Can he tell the committee how it works out per ton?

Mr. CRERAR: I cannot at the moment give the information as to the number of tons that were assisted. The amount paid in subventions last year was slightly under \$2,000,000. Some of that went to western Canada; one figure that sticks in my memory is that the subvention paid on the movement