

APPENDIX No. 6

"An Act respecting the sale and distribution of fuel and foodstuffs in times of crisis" was passed by the Quebec Legislature (Assembly Bill No. 16) last Session, according to the provisions of the Act it would not come into force except by special proclamation of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, as set out in Clause 13 of the Act. It was not found necessary, during the past winter, to exercise the authority above referred to."

Q. I have just one more question. Do you know anything about the possible future development of coal in the Maritimes?—A. From the experience that I had, as I told you, 14 years ago, we estimated that the proved areas in Cape Breton were capable of producing 4,000,000 tons annually for over 100 years.

Q. Those are the areas.—A. Which were being worked at that time by the Dominion Coal Company, the new areas that had just been started.

Q. Would you give any estimate as to the possible output of the New Brunswick mines, or are you able to do that?—A. I am afraid I am not in a position to indicate anything that would be of value in that line.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, gentlemen, go ahead.

By Mr. Drummond:

Q. Have the conditions governing the production of coal not changed very materially in the last 14 years?—A. They have in some respects, the haulage is longer, and the pumping is more expensive.

Q. The cost of production has gone up?—A. Yes, and there are other conditions, such as the development of the submarine areas and all these would possibly tend to reduce the output as compared with the years when they were working coal close to the pit's mouth, but at the same time I might add that in a great many cases new veins are being opened, especially in the new districts, and there are areas being worked which were only touched about 14 or 15 years ago, and which are capable of very extensive development under favourable conditions.

Q. But notwithstanding this increased production, the circumstances surrounding mining and so forth of coal have got far more expensive in 14 years?—A. Certainly, the miners' wages were increased materially.

Q. Which would materially increase the prices?—A. Certainly, and not only that, the cost of material required in the mines has increased enormously, the cost of pit props is very much higher than it used to be, and I was going to say the transportation rates by water are very much higher than they used to be before the war. At one time, I have sold coal here in Ottawa, delivered, by the Dominion Coal Company, to the Eddy Company here, at rates which were in competition with the rates of coal from the United States.

Q. And would you say that, taking these things into consideration that the increase in the output of coal was justifiable under the present circumstances?—A. It just depends to what extent the citizens of Canada appreciate the importance of developing its own natural fuel supply. Everybody will have to contribute to that end if it is to be made a success.

Q. And more of these difficulties would have to be overcome?—A. Most decidedly.

By Mr. Warner:

Q. I might ask, what is the condition that you have reference to that must be overcome?—A. I can only tell from hearsay, because I am not now connected with any coal company, but when I was connected with the Dominion Coal Company we were able to place coal on the cars at the pit head at about \$1 a ton, and from information I have recently received, discussing the matter with some of my friends, that has gone up to \$3 and over.

Q. \$3?—A. Yes, sir.